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THE STORM IS COMING

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100% Hardcore Wrestling

inside ECW:

Dreamer

Sabu

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Justin Credible

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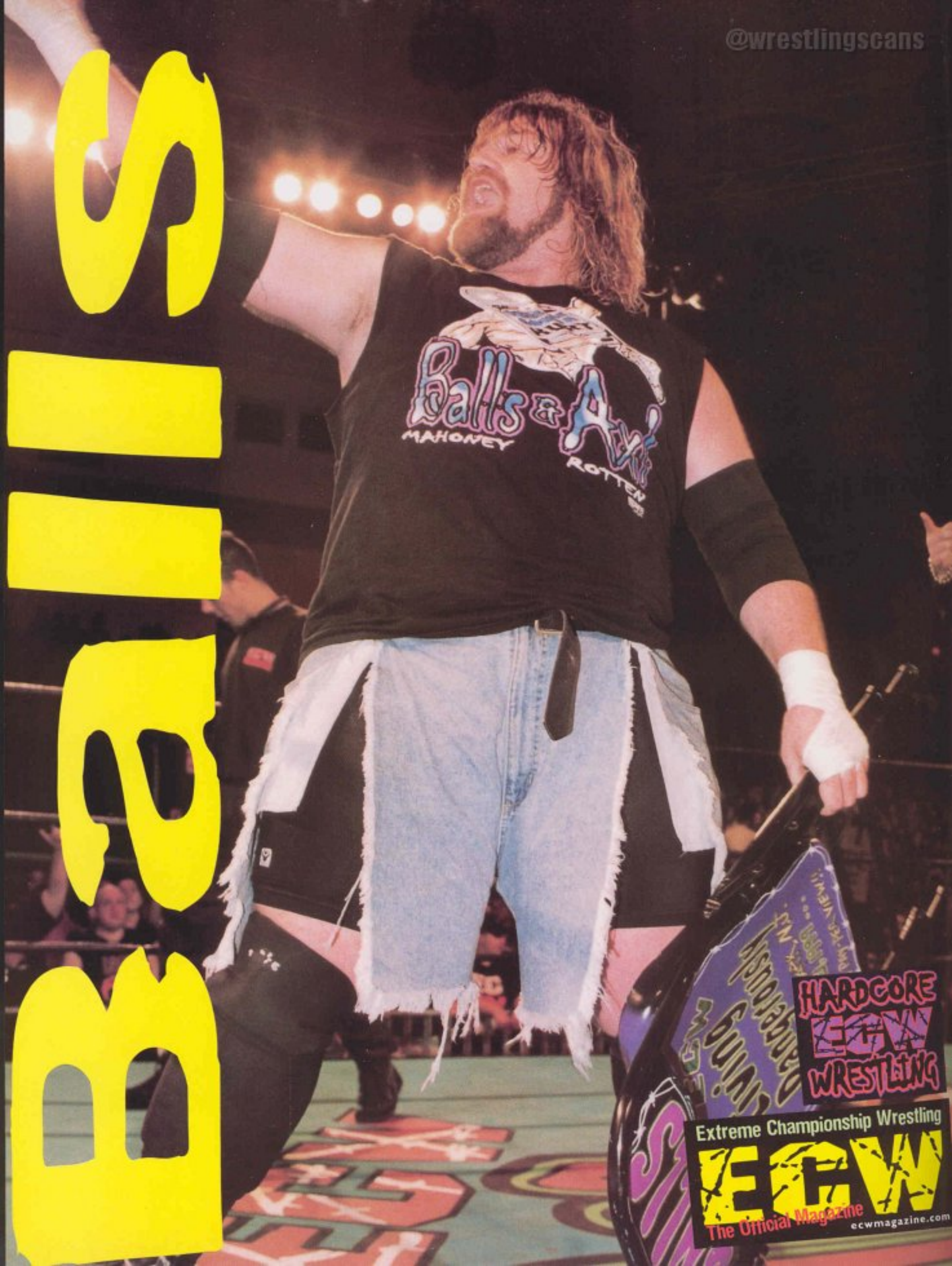
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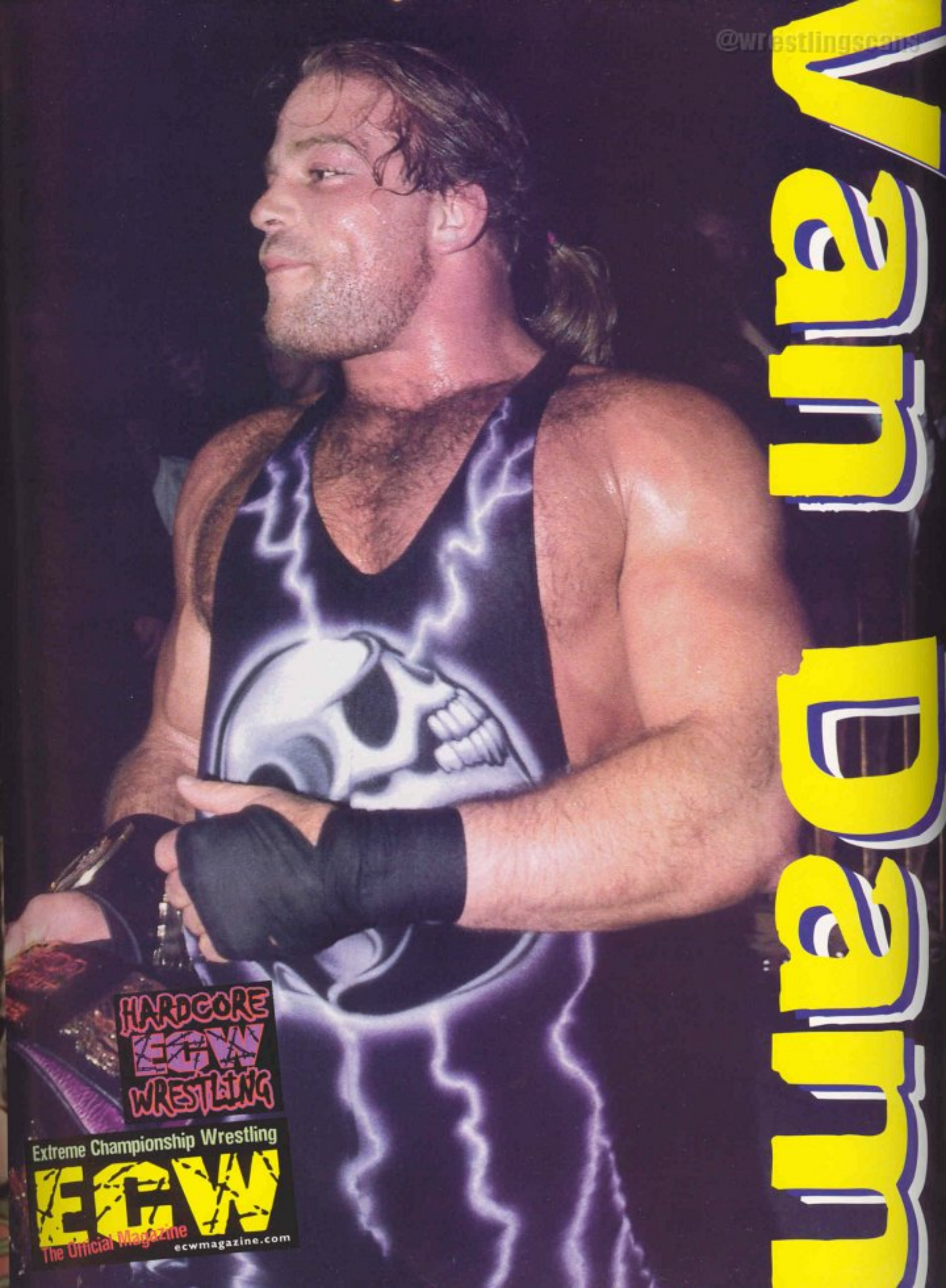
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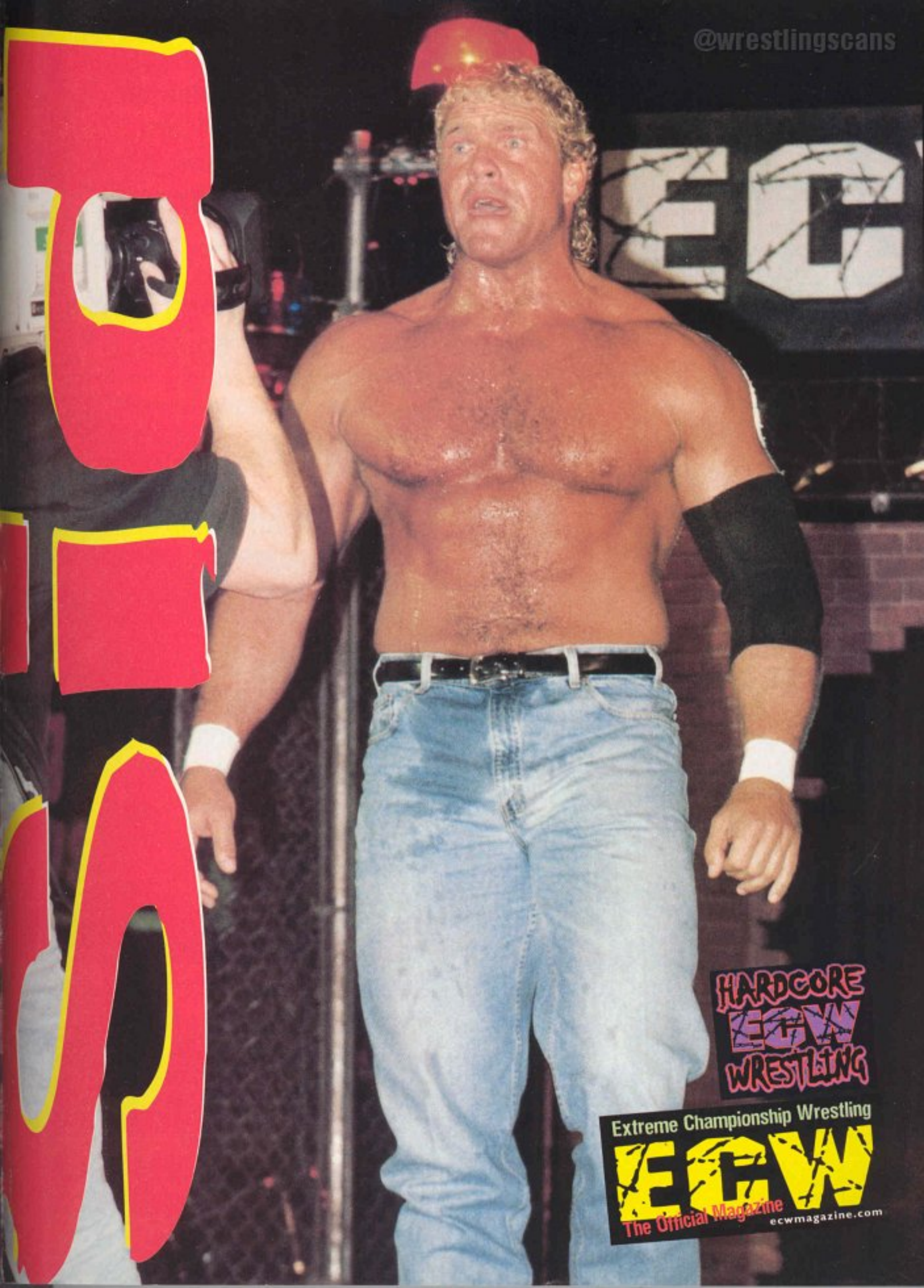
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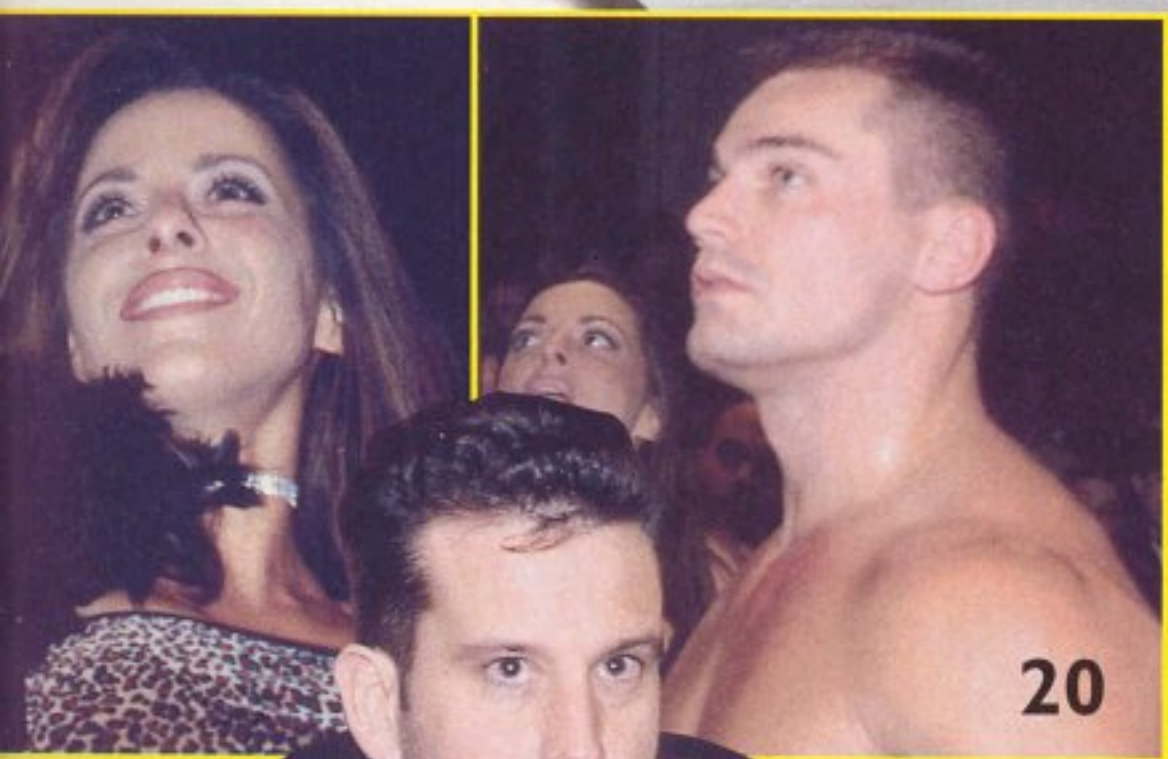

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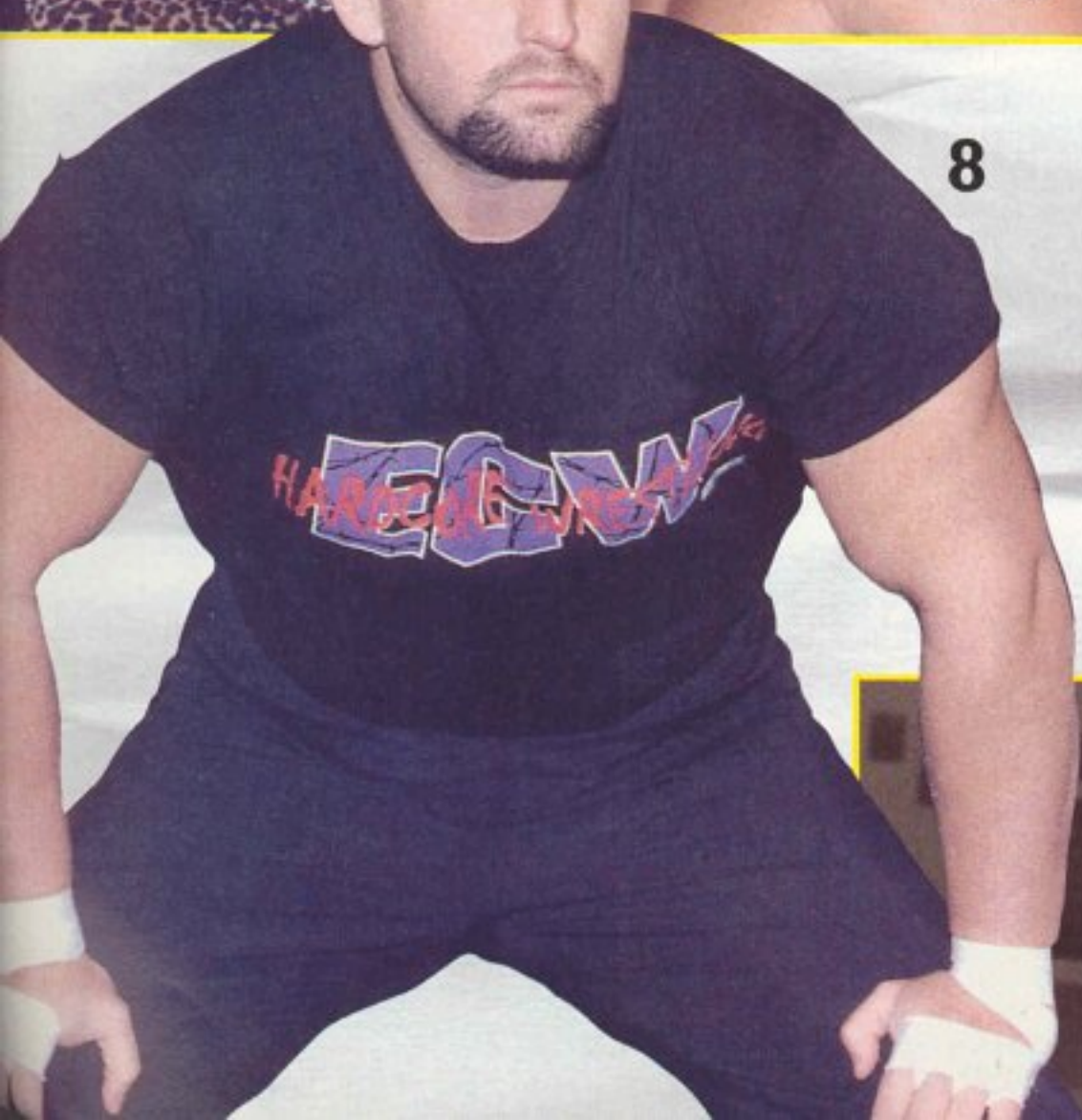

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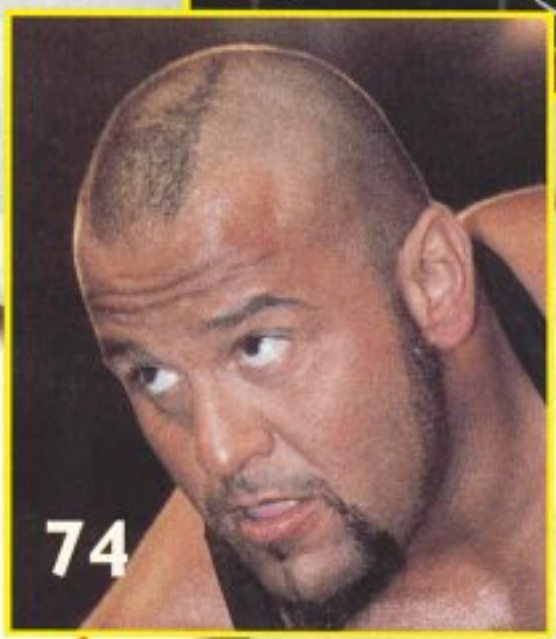

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Michael M. Meyers ..... Publisher
John Delavan ..... Managing Editor
Elliott From ..... Managing Art Director
Karin Kaltofen ..... Art Director
Brad Perkins ..... Editorial Assistant
Mike Berk ..... Production Assistant

Contributors, Vol. 1 No. 2

Contributing Editor: Joey Styles
Contributing Writers: Bill Alfonso, Denny Burkholder, Dave Conroy, Shane Douglas, Matt Hunter, Donny Laible, Blake Norton, Brad Perkins, Dave Scherer, Matthew Scribe, Joey Styles

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Ann-Marie Mrozynski ..... Circulation Manager
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Mary Wenders ..... Executive Assistant
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ECW in styles

by Joey Styles

Joey Styles is the voice of ECW's weekly syndicated television program and live pay-per-view events. Styles also manages ***www.ECWwrestling.com*** *and the* ***ECW Hardcore Hotline (900) 737-4ECW.***

April 13, 1997, was the greatest night of my professional life. In fact, with the exception of my wedding night, it was the greatest night of my life ... period. It was the night that the voices of the critics ringing inside my head were silenced forever. It was a night of validation for myself and so many others in the ECW locker room. It was the night that ECW finally made its pay-per-view debut with Barely Legal.

I saw my first wrestling match on a 13-inch, black-and-white television set when I was 10 years old and I was hooked. By age 13, I knew I wanted to be a professional wrestling television announcer. "You want to be a what?!?" My parents were less than thrilled to say the least. I am sure that, like most parents, they saw their little boy growing up to be a doctor, lawyer or captain of industry.

I spent most of the years between 1984 and 1997 being told my aspirations were silly and that I should forget them and get serious. Well, I was serious, and I had a serious plan. My feeling was that someone has to call these matches ... so why shouldn't it be me? After graduating from high school I chose to go to Hofstra University in New York because they had studies in television performing and because it was 15 minutes from the company that published most of the wrestling magazines that I read. (The academic scholarship was a pretty good reason to stay in New York as well.)

To make a long story fit on this page, I secured an internship at the publishing company, working for Bill Apter. In my senior year, I met Paul Heyman, a.k.a. Paul E. Dangerously, the hottest manager in the wrestling business. His Dangerous Alliance was tearing through WCW, and he was living my dream. I showed Paul a video of some play-by-play I had done for a New York-based independent promotion, and he liked it.

About the time I was graduating from Hofstra in 1993, Paul had left WCW (I will let him tell that story) and was in a Philadelphia-based independent called ECW. To be honest, back then I planned on using my break with ECW to get a shot with one of the "Big Two," WWF or WCW. In the last six years, I have had five opportunities to do just that and have not – an idea that would have seemed ludicrous in 1993. However, Paul made it clear from the night I tried out for ECW on June 19, 1993, that he had aspirations of his own to make ECW a national promotion and a pay-per-view player. (Yeah, sure. I knew this guy was nuts from that day on.)

Fast forward to April 13, 1997. ECW: Barely Legal from the ECW Arena, a dilapidated converted bingo hall in south Philadelphia. Paul, never doubting me, insisted that in my first live broadcast ever, I would do what no other announcer had done before. I was going to host and call a live wrestling pay-per-view broadcast by myself!

It was put up or shut up time. This was what I had dreamed of and now it was here for the taking. I would make or break the career of my dreams on live television. No experienced color commentator to carry me and no re-takes. (Maybe it was not too late to go to law school after all.)

As I stood by the curtain at Barely Legal, you would have thought I was wrestling in the opening match. I had my game face on and I could have eaten nails. The rush I felt that night is still unparalleled. By the end of the first match, the butterflies were gone, I was completely at ease and the words flowed from me automatically. I was calling action, reading notes on Japanese wrestlers, talking to the production truck and smiling at my fiancée (now my wife), Janice. Oh My God! I was a wrestling announcer!

After signing off, I stood up to chants of "Joey! Joey!" from the ever-loyal ECW Arena fans. I was speechless. I made my way to the production stage where Paul and Janice were standing and the weirdest thing happened. I actually broke down into tears and I could not breathe. I was overcome with feelings of relief and validation. The voices of my parents, teachers and other doubters were gone. I was a wrestling announcer. Paul was teary eyed as well and gave me the biggest hug I had ever received ... until Janice grabbed me and outdid Paul, telling me how proud she was of me.

To this day the poster for ECW: Barely Legal remains an eyesore in my cute little country home in Connecticut, and not a day goes by that I do not thank God for Janice and ECW. ecw

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Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor

DEAR ECW MAGAZINE,

I've been an ECW fan in Arizona for about three years, and I just read the first issue of ECW, and it was awesome. I've never seen so many cool pictures of my favorite wrestlers in a long time. I think that ECW is the best federation around in America, period. I mean, can Stone Cold dive from the balcony like New Jack can? What about the time when Mr. PPV did a Somersault Jump over Bigelow in Buffalo, can Hogan do that? Can the WWF or WCW do a match like Stairway to Hell or Born to Be Wired? I can't wait for your second issue 'cause the first one kicked ass! Kudos to all who worked in the magazine. Stay extreme ...

CARLO BACALOCOS
ECW EMPIRE
HTTP://WWW.ANGELFIRE.COM/AZ/ARMORKINGTK6/

DEAR ECW MAGAZINE,

I was in Suncoast Video and saw ECW Magazine on the stands. Picked it up. First off, it was $6. Little high if ya ask me, but that's OK. Let's start with the fact that it's all color, all glossy. The pictures are absolutely great, and the writing is pretty good too. The mag has a history of ECW, starting with the days that Eddie Gilbert and Tod Gordon ran the show, all the way up to present. There's a recap of the Guilty as Charged PPV as well as quite a few photos. Towards the back we have full page photos, and preceeded by that is bios of some of ECW's current stars. Interview with Taz, which is long, and a big thing on RVD/Sabu. Styles does commentary (of course) and more. I'd say well worth it. It looks nice as hell, too.

ROB KOSSAYIAN
ROB@LOUDNET.COM
VIA DEJANEWS

DEAR ECW MAGAZINE,

I have been a fan of wrestling since I was 7 years old. My first match I saw was WWF's Don Moracco vs. Hillbilly Jim, and since then I have LOVED wrestling. But in 1996, my friend introduced me to ECW. I watched his tape, and I fell in love with it. I have seen every ECW PPV and almost all of their TV tapings. ECW is the best! I no longer bother with WCW. Sometimes I tune into WWF, but I watch ECW religiously. It is the best. And I just want to take the opportunity to say that ECW IS the revolution, and I wish you guys great luck on your climb to top of the wrestling ladder.

NICK
NEW JERSEY
ECWRVD530@AOL.COM

DEAR ECW MAGAZINE,

I've been into ECW since late 1996. It's the best promotion ever. I could easily go to a WWF event and sit front row and it would suck! But I went to an ECW event and sat front row, and it was the greatest wrestling event ever! I'm also sick of the WWF and WCW trying to go hardcore when they can't. There is nothing more hardcore than EC F'N W! I will always be loyal to ECW because ECW is definitely the whole F'n show!

CHAD
VALROSKI@AOL.COM

DEAR ECW MAGAZINE,

When I saw ECW come out on WWF's Raw in February 1997, I fell in love with it. I can't believe I used to watch WWF, they suck so much! Now that I have joined the Revolution, I can't wait to realize my dream: go to a show LIVE!

JEAN COUTURE
FABREVILLE, QUEBEC
COJEAN@HOTMAIL.COM

DEAR ECW MAGAZINE,

I have just finished reading the first issue of the Extreme Championship Wrestling Magazine, and all I have to say is it's GREAT! It was the first magazine I ever read. Usually I look at the pictures and flip through the pages, but not the ECW Magazine. So, the first issue was great, and I'm sure the second one will be, too.

STEVE KERYOOO
PHILADELPHIA
SABUHSGECW@AOL.COM

@wrestlingscans

DEAR ECW MAGAZINE,

ECW is the greatest wrestling promotion on the planet, and it's about time for a magazine to be published especially for them. In Tennessee it is sort of hard to find a lot of things about ECW. My friends and I rent the PPVs, watch the weekly show on America One television, and order the tapes from RF Video, but there are just not enough ECW wrestler posters, stories, and pics inside other wrestling magazines. ECW has THE brightest stars, best hardcore action, and the most awesome storylines. Maybe this magazine will help get ECW recognized more and make everyone realize that all WWF and WCW do is try to imitate the stuff first done by ECW. I can't wait until it becomes the "Big Three" instead of the "Big Two," but, as every ECW fan already knows, Philadelphia's Extreme Championship Wrestling is No. 1!

NOAH SANDERS
LINDEN, TENN.
ADSAN@NETEASE.NET

DEAR ECW MAGAZINE,

I think ECW is the best wrestling promotion there is. You might not have the biggest promotion, but your action and superstars are the best. The WWF would never have barbwire matches. You bring the fans what we want. I must say thanks to every ECW star for bringing me the best wrestling there is. Even when you're sick and tired, you never let me down. I hope to see more barbwire matches. The WWF doesn't know what hardcore means.

MELISSA SHAY
BUFFALO, N.Y.
MRSSHAY@HOTMAIL.COM

DEAR ECW MAGAZINE,

I just got my copy of the first edition of ECW Magazine at a newsstand (I'm going to subscribe ASAP). Great job! I especially enjoyed the interview with Taz, The Franchise Forum, the articles on The Dudley Boyz and Sabu and Rob Van Dam, the pictures (especially the pictures!), and the wrestler bios. I've seen both the WWF and WCW,s magazines and they insult the fan's intelligence. Keep up the great work!

EDWARD HUANG
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF PRO-ECW
PRO-ECW-SUBSCRIBE@EGROUPS.COM

DEAR ECW MAGAZINE,

I'm glad to see ECW coming out with its own magazine. All I can say is, keep going in the direction you're going, it seems to be working. Also, please try to come around my area – Indianapolis or Louisville, Ky. Thanks, hope to see you soon. You've got a lot of fans here.

DANNY
DELAM@KSONLINE.NET

DEAR ECW MAGAZINE,

I have been an ECW fan for about 21/2 years now. I remember guys like Mikey, Bam Bam, and Sandman. They were extremely important to the company. It is sad that they had to go, but I am very impressed with the new talent. Wrestlers like Danny Doring, Roadkill, Super Crazy, Chetti, Tajiri, and Sid are the future of ECW. Right now, ECW is at its highest ever. We've got six PPVs a year, a magazine, toys, and soon to come, a video game.

I also want to point out the hard work and dedication that these wrestlers contribute in ECW. It is unbelievable. No other federation can compare to the extreme level of ECW, although they try. Keep up the good work. ECW! ECW! ECW!

ANTHONY JACOB
BROOKLYN, N.Y.

DEAR ECW MAGAZINE,

I just want to say that I'm glad there is finally a magazine dedicated to the greatest wrestling promotion in the history of professional wrestling, ECW. I have dedicated myself to ECW since sometime around late 1995, and I have to say that it blows both the WCW and the WWF out of the water just like the ECW Magazine blows away the other magazines. ECW has the best young talent in the world, guys like Jerry Lynn, Rob Van Dam, Sabu. I could go on all day. WWF and WCW are the so-called "Big Two," but neither one of them in my opinion holds crap to EC F'N W.

JONHUFF@AOL.COM

Got something to say? We welcome your letters. Keep 'em short, and please include your name, full name, address, and daytime phone number for verification (address and phone will never be published). Send your letter to:
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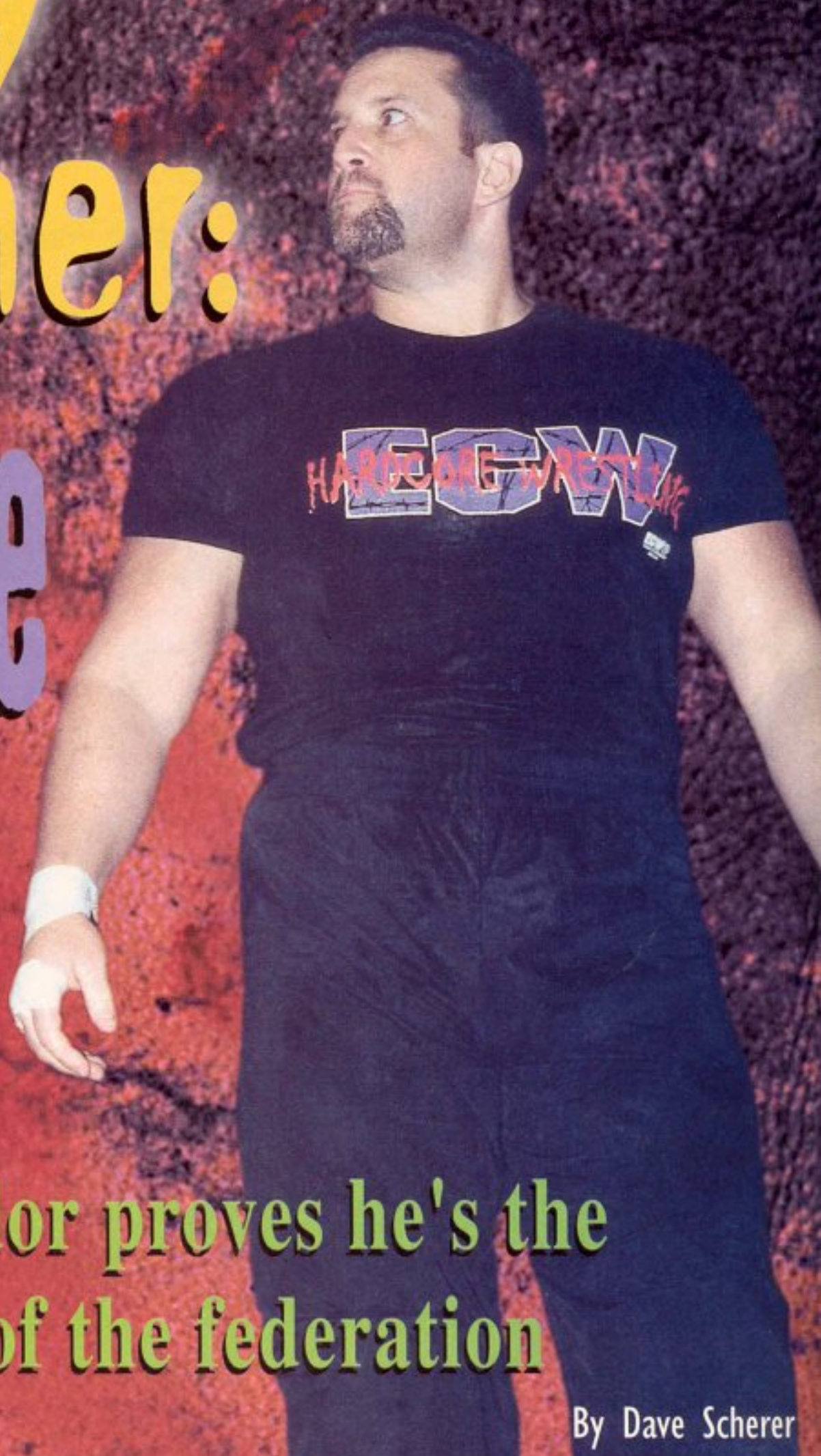
Tommy Dreamer: Hardcore Hero



ECW ambassador proves he's the heart and soul of the federation

By Dave Scherer

ECW is a company that has been built on the backs of some of the toughest men that the wrestling business has ever seen. ECW, through its incredibly intense in-ring style, has brought the hardcore element back to the wrestling business. What the other companies are doing now is an imitation of what wrestlers have been doing in ECW for years, as it was a major component of the ECW Revolution.

In the early days of ECW, the company's reputation was known far and wide for its wrestlers' unselfish and total commitment to the cause. As with every revolution, there has to be one man to carry the torch. In ECW, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that man is Tommy Dreamer.

There is an old saying in life that hard work pays big dividends. When you apply that line of thinking to Extreme Championship Wrestling, the first name to come to mind is Tommy Dreamer.

When Dreamer made his debut for ECW in October 1993, he was 22 years old and a five-year wrestling pro. He had wrestled his first match at a venue called Gleason's Gym in his home state of New York on Oct. 28, 1988. He later wrestled for the now defunct IWCCW promotion, where he cut his teeth early in his career.

He debuted in ECW shortly after Paul Heyman took over as talent coordinator for the company. Upon his arrival, Dreamer would be part of Heyman's new vision for the pro wrestling business. Heyman's approach combined going back to the roots of the wrestling business with an MTV mentality. It allowed him to get the most out of his wrestlers, provided they were willing to give their all in the ring. As he has demonstrated throughout his career in ECW, Dreamer's has been more than willing to do just that.

"Tommy Dreamer is in many ways one of the key points to what we had in mind in conceptualizing what ECW would be and become," Heyman said. "He's a big, tough kid, but in many ways, besides his size, he's just an average guy forced to take extreme measures because of the extraordinary situations that he is forced into."

Early Struggles

Despite the big opportunity that Heyman gave him, Tommy Dreamer's early life in ECW was not a fairy tale by any means. When Tommy first came to ECW, he appeared to be the standard pretty boy wrestler of the time period. He came to the ring wearing fancy pants and suspenders, looking almost like a dancer. At that time, the fans of the ECW Revolution were not inclined to support the standard fare of what the "Big Two" had to offer, and Tommy seemed more in line with what they were doing there. ECW was about making a difference, and Tommy was viewed in his early days as a sugary-sweet type of wrestler. Given his current role in ECW, this is probably the ultimate irony of Tommy's career, and he would show all of the doubters over time just how wrong their first impressions were.

Dreamer, despite an early lukewarm response from fans, wrestled like a demon in the ECW rings. He realized that by showing the fans the size of his heart, they would eventually learn to appreciate the man who owned it. On Nov. 13, 1993, in Philadelphia, Tommy won his only title in ECW as he and Johnny Gunn beat Hitman Tony Stetson and Johnny Hotbody to win the ECW tag belts.

Their title reign was short-lived, however, as less than a month later, on Dec. 4, Dreamer lost his strap. The circumstances of this match would, ironically enough, have

a big impact on Tommy's future. On that night, Shane Douglas substituted for the injured Gunn in a title defense against the Tazmaniac (now the world champion Taz) and Kevin Sullivan. This match saw Douglas turn on Tommy by hitting him with a chain, which allowed Taz and Sullivan to win the titles.

Shane would again turn on Tommy in 1996, when he returned from his tenure in the WWF, and in fact, he has been a friend as often as he has been an enemy for Dreamer. The respect between the two men, despite how they personally feel about each other, has always been a bond they shared throughout their years in ECW.

The Big Break

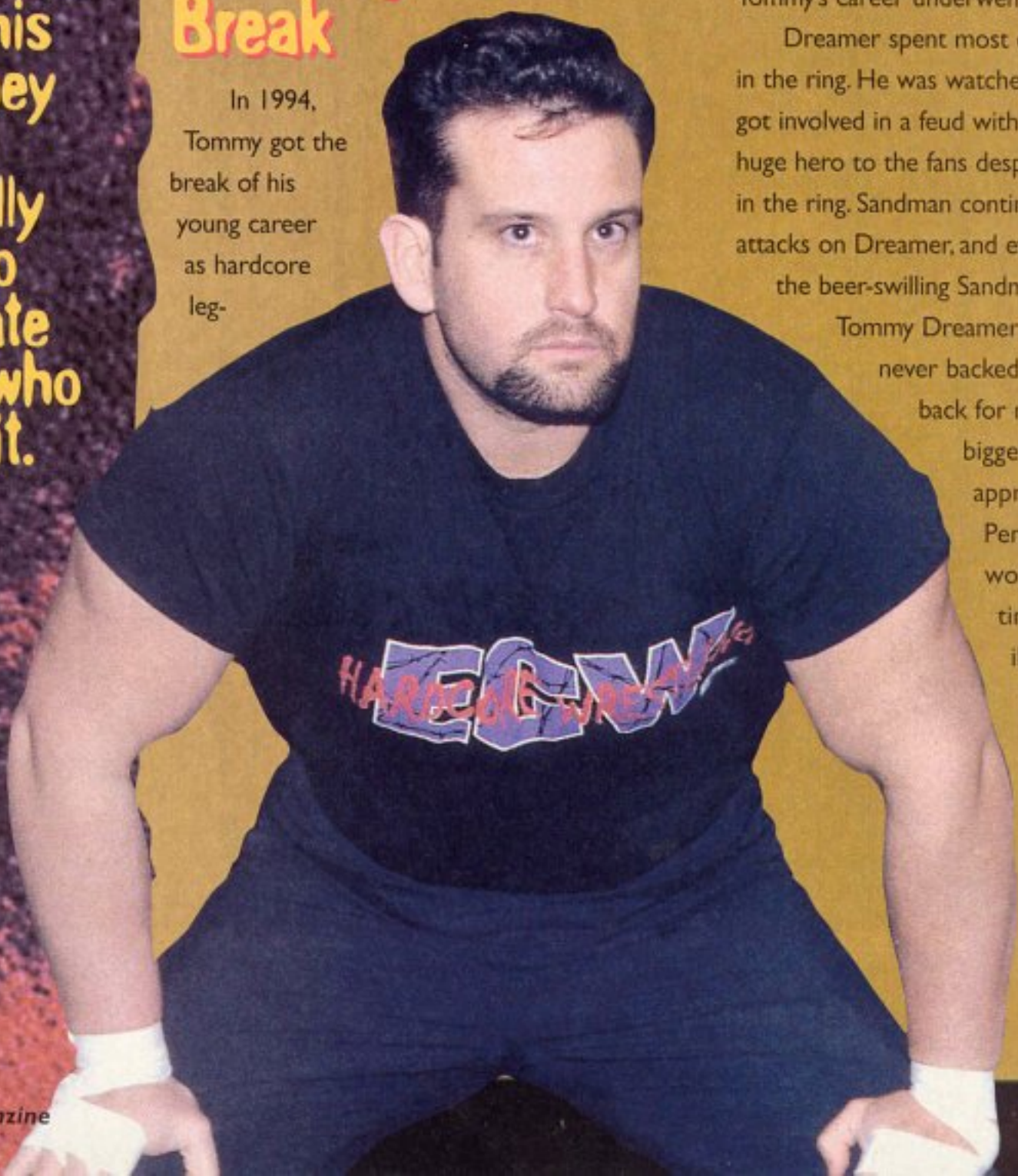
In 1994, Tommy got the break of his young career as hardcore legend Terry Funk took him under his wing. While they have had their differences in the ring at times, their relationship historically has been considered like that of mentor and student, and some say as father and son. It is fair to say that Tommy's road to becoming ECW's hardcore hero started under the stewardship of the master of that role. Under Funk's guidance, Tommy's career underwent a metamorphosis.

Dreamer spent most of 1994 redefining his style in the ring. He was watched more closely when he got involved in a feud with the Sandman, who was a huge hero to the fans despite his rule-breaking tactics in the ring. Sandman continually used under-handed attacks on Dreamer, and even though the fans loved the beer-swilling Sandman, they grew to respect Tommy Dreamer just as much because he never backed down and always came back for more. Even Dreamer's biggest detractors had to appreciate the night in Pennsylvania when Sandman won the right to cane him 10 times, and after each incredibly painful whack, Dreamer would ask for another lashing. These are the acts that make legends.

The true turning point in the career of Tommy Dreamer came on Nov. 19, 1994, in a match against the Sandman in which Tommy kept being

...even though the fans loved the beer-swilling Sandman, they grew to respect Tommy Dreamer just as much because he never backed down and always came back for more.

Dreamer realized that by showing the fans the size of his heart, they would eventually learn to appreciate the man who owned it.



TOMMY DREAMER

Age:
28 (born 2/13/71)

Height:
6 feet, 2 inches

Weight:
266 pounds

Debuted in ECW:
October 2, 1993

First ECW Opponent:
Taz

Trained By:
The Unpredictable
Johnny Rodz

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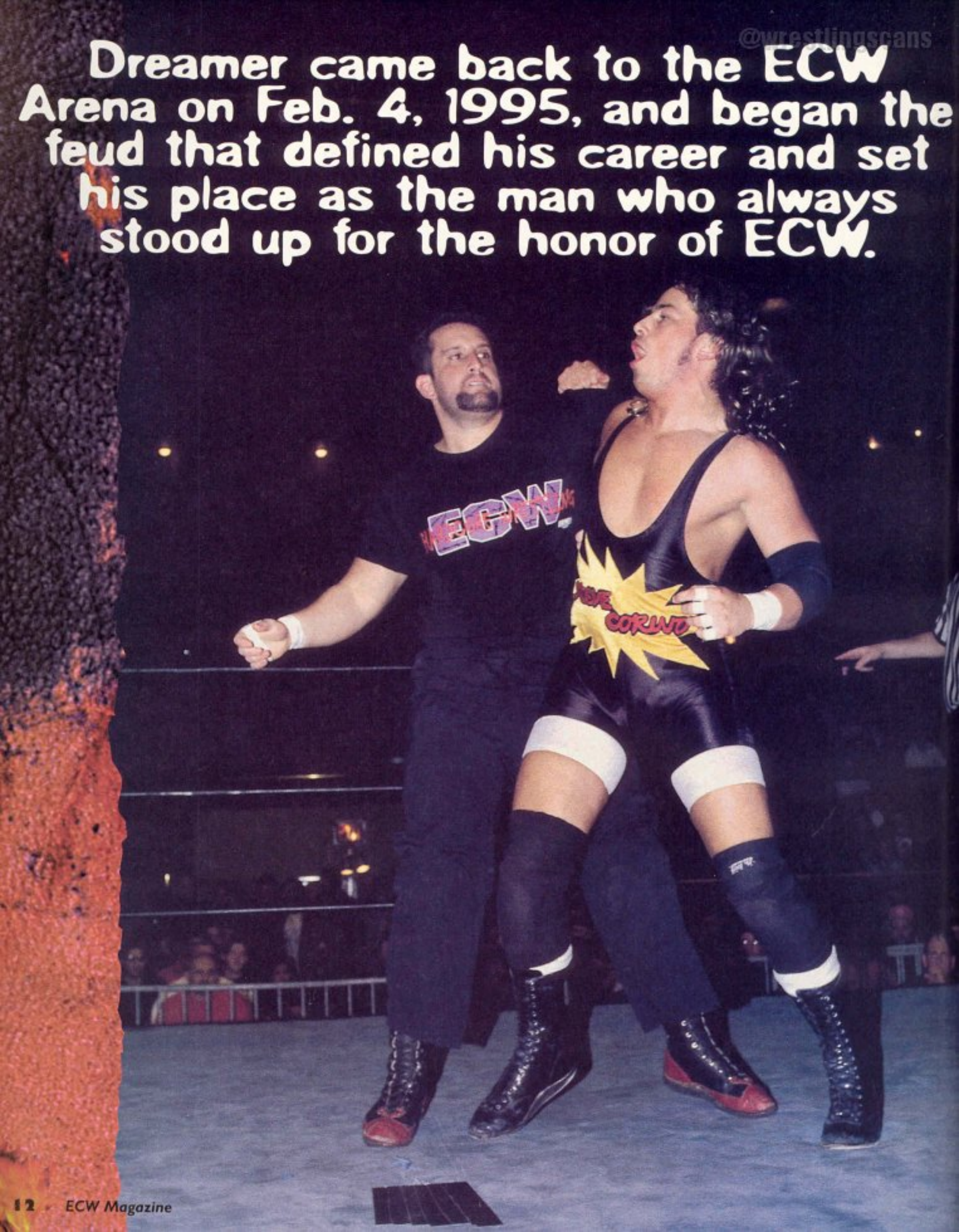
Dreamer came back to the ECW Arena on Feb. 4, 1995, and began the feud that defined his career and set his place as the man who always stood up for the honor of ECW.



beaten down and kept coming back. That night, the crowd appointed him the flag-bearer of extreme when they broke into a spontaneous chant of, "He's Hardcore," a chant that would echo throughout the company for months to come.

Picking Up Steam

Now that he was established in ECW, Dreamer worked on rounding out his wrestling ability. In early 1995, he went on a tour with All Japan Pro Wrestling and picked up pointers from wrestling legends such as Stan "The Lariat" Hansen. He came back to the ECW Arena on Feb. 4, 1995, and began the feud that truly defined his career and set his place as the man who always stood up for the honor of ECW.

That February evening was the night of the infamous "Double Tables" card. Tommy hit the ring with a new look. Gone was the dancer outfit from the past, replaced by a T-shirt and shorts. Eventually, the shorts would be replaced by the look he wears to this day, but this was the genesis of the feud that would define Tommy's life for the better part of the next few years. He took on Stevie Richards that night, and after pinning him in a brawling bout, the man who would become his signature nemesis, Raven, came out to ringside. While they did not get to each other, it was their first confrontation in ECW, and it was the beginning of one of the most brutal feuds in ECW history.

Tommy fought wars against Raven and his flock for the rest of 1995 and 1996. There were many nights that Tommy would be within seconds of getting that elusive pin on Raven, only to have Raven's flock save their leader. Their issues with each other were twofold. On the business end, Tommy fought to defend ECW and what it stood for. On the personal side, as is often the case with issues between men, there was a war over the affections of a woman, the lovely Beulah. Initially, Beulah was part of Raven's flock, and Dreamer tried to get her to see the light.

Eventually she did, and after she came to Tommy's side, the war between Raven and Dreamer heightened. Raven continually brought in men to destroy Dreamer, and the abuse his body took was legendary. The battering he received in his earlier feud with the Sandman could not compare to the violence inflicted upon him by Raven and his flock. How do you come back from having a cinder block smashed on your nether regions?

Or how do you get up after Brian Lee chokeslams you from the top of the ECW Arena through multiple tables? As had become his trademark by then, Tommy always got back up. No one could keep him down.

Eventually, Tommy would get the upper hand over Raven. After taking out all of the Flock, Tommy finally won the feud

As had become his trademark by then, Tommy always got back up. No one could keep him down.

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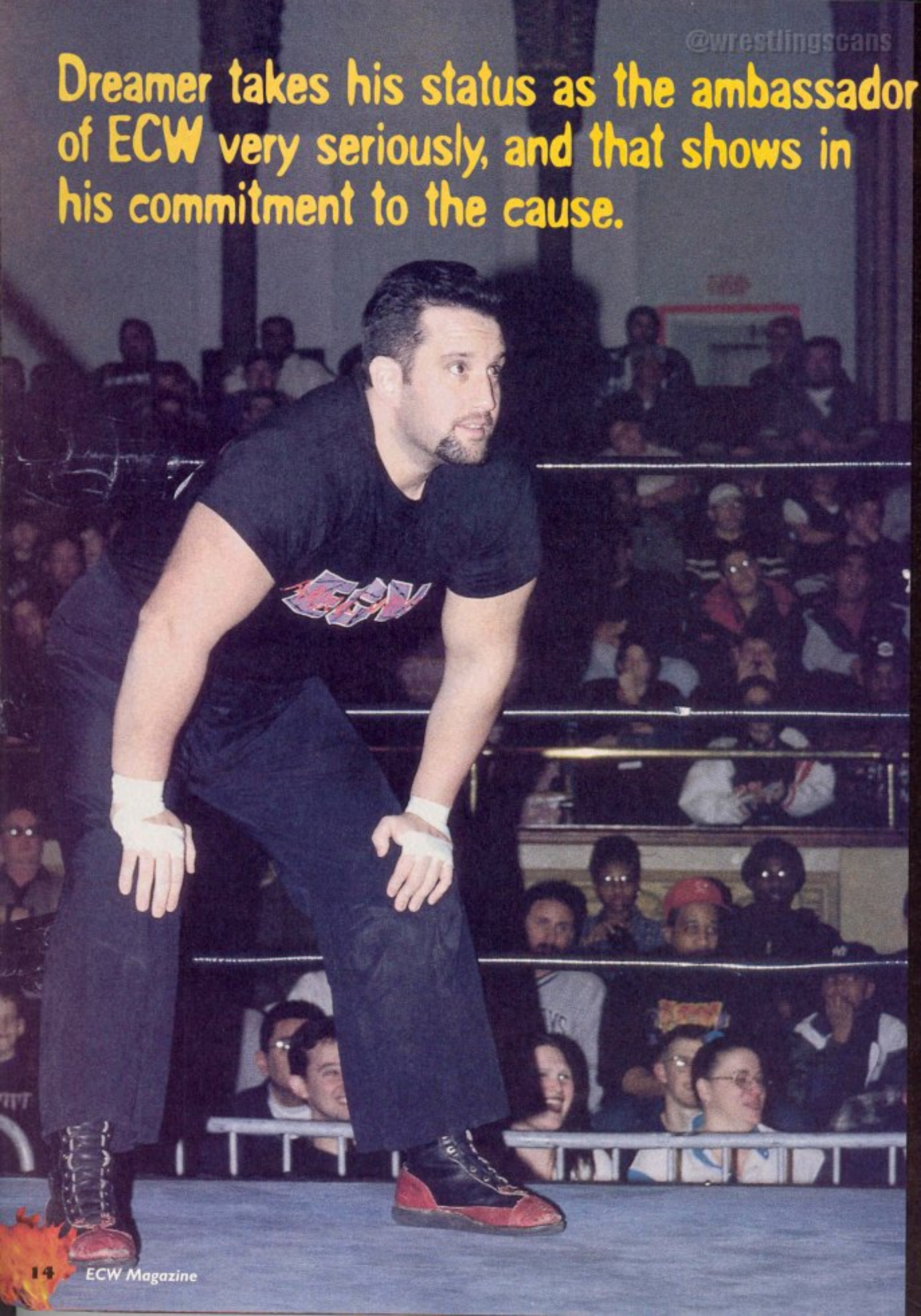
Dreamer takes his status as the ambassador of ECW very seriously, and that shows in his commitment to the cause.



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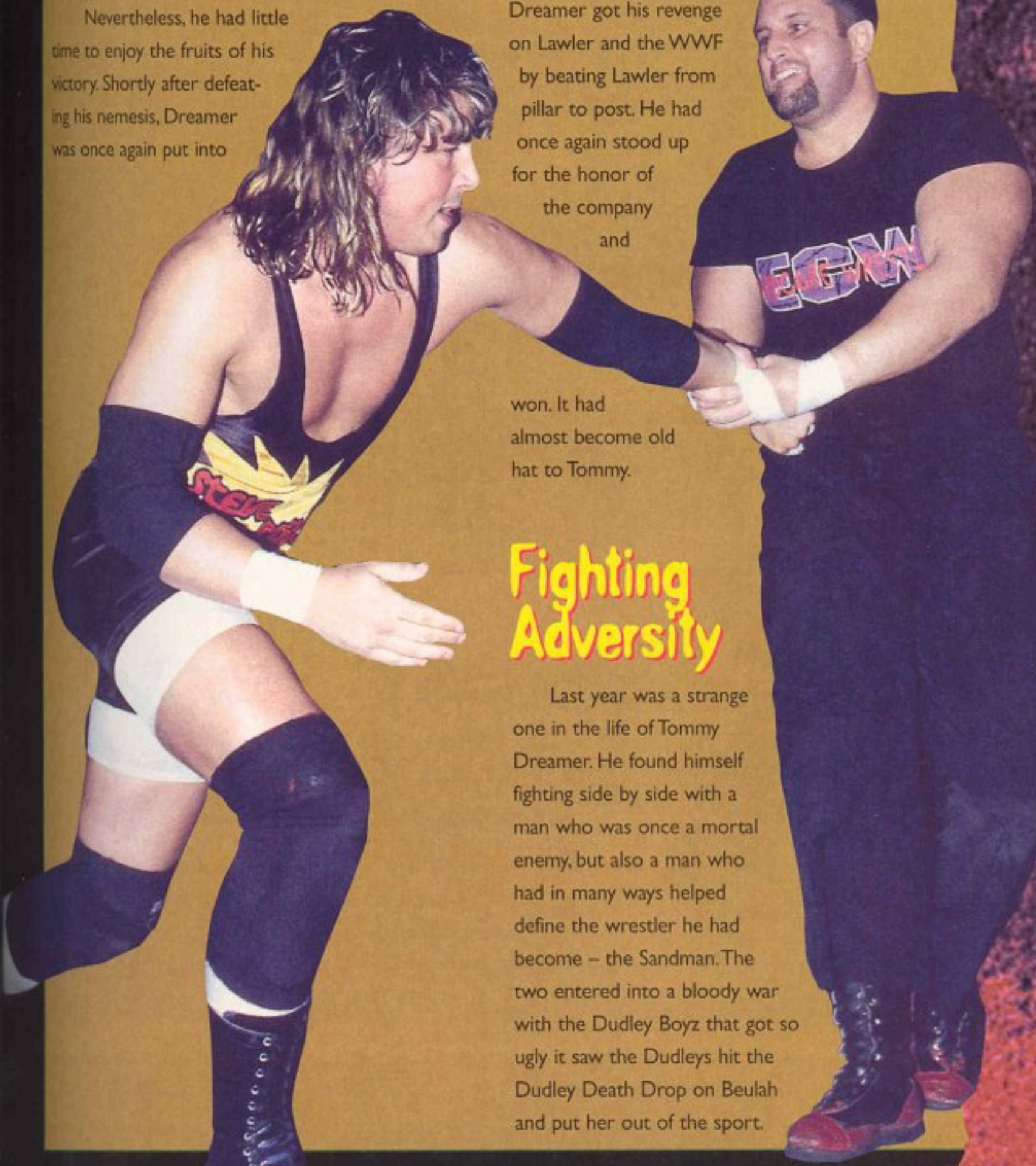
... Dreamer got his revenge on Lawler and the WWF by beating Lawler from pillar to post.

at the ECW Arena on June 7, 1997, in a Loser Leaves Town match.

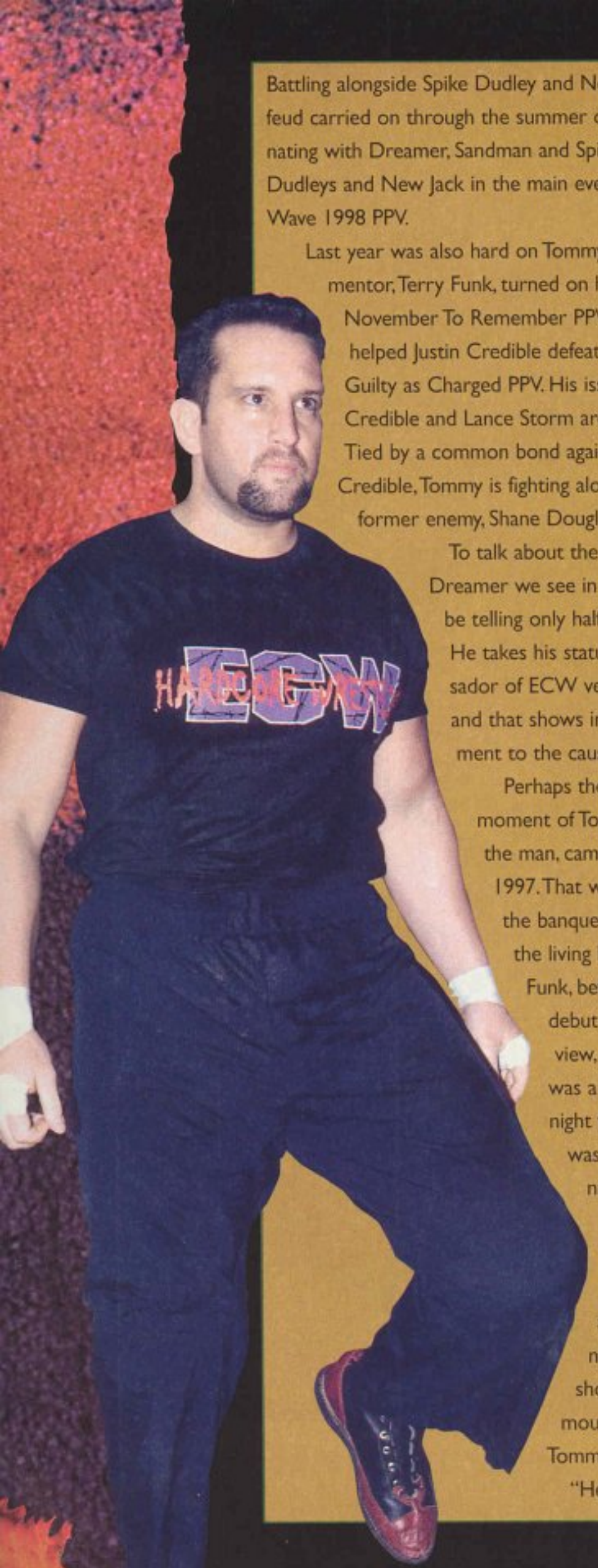
Nevertheless, he had little time to enjoy the fruits of his victory. Shortly after defeating his nemesis, Dreamer was once again put into a position to defend the honor of ECW, this time against the World Wrestling Federation.

Jerry Lawler and Jim Cornette invaded the ECW Arena that summer, and Lawler savagely caned Dreamer in his crotch. The scream Tommy let out that night would make anyone's blood curdle. This led to a match between Dreamer and Lawler at the Hardcore Heaven 1997 PPV, where Dreamer got his revenge on Lawler and the WWF by beating Lawler from pillar to post. He had once again stood up for the honor of the company and won. It had almost become old hat to Tommy.



Fighting Adversity

Last year was a strange one in the life of Tommy Dreamer. He found himself fighting side by side with a man who was once a mortal enemy, but also a man who had in many ways helped define the wrestler he had become – the Sandman. The two entered into a bloody war with the Dudley Boyz that got so ugly it saw the Dudleys hit the Dudley Death Drop on Beulah and put her out of the sport.



Battling alongside Spike Dudley and New Jack, the feud carried on through the summer of 1998 culminating with Dreamer, Sandman and Spike beating the Dudleys and New Jack in the main event of Heat Wave 1998 PPV.

Last year was also hard on Tommy because his mentor, Terry Funk, turned on him at the November To Remember PPV and then helped Justin Credible defeat him at the Guilty as Charged PPV. His issues with Credible and Lance Storm are far from over. Tied by a common bond against Storm and Credible, Tommy is fighting alongside another former enemy, Shane Douglas.

To talk about the Tommy Dreamer we see in the ring would be telling only half of the story. He takes his status as the ambassador of ECW very seriously, and that shows in his commitment to the cause.

Perhaps the most defining moment of Tommy Dreamer, the man, came on April 12, 1997. That was the night of the banquet that honored the living legend, Terry Funk, before ECW's debut on pay-per-view, Barely Legal. It was a very special night for Tommy, as he was the main organizer of the gala dinner, which honored his mentor. It was an emotional night, and it showed the enormous heart of Tommy Dreamer.

"Heading into our first PPV was one of the greatest tasks this company ever faced," ECW's Paul Heyman said. "There were many people who did not want us to see that day come to fruition. The WWF obviously didn't want us to cut into its PPV revenue. WCW obviously didn't want us to tap into that market. And, many other people made it their agenda to keep us off the map.

"While we were facing all of these obstacles, Tommy Dreamer took it upon himself to take over the arranging, the preparation, and all the details for the Terry Funk banquet. This wasn't just a dinner as far as we (ECW officials) were concerned. This had to be a fitting tribute to the legend brought us to the dance. And Tommy Dreamer, seeing how overwhelmed we were dealing with the PPV, took it upon himself to make sure the banquet was done right. I can not begin to accurately describe just how important his participation was in making sure that night was everything we imagined it would be."

It's not easy to be the m who represents a compa let alone the man who represents a revolution.

Facing The Challenge

When talking about Tommy, the word that always seems to come up is heart. It's not easy to be the man who represents a company, let alone the man who represents a revolution. People will always be gunning for you or looking to take you down. As Tommy Dreamer has shown throughout his career, that does not scare him. It's a challenge that he wants brought on. And it's a challenge that will always be answered. ECW

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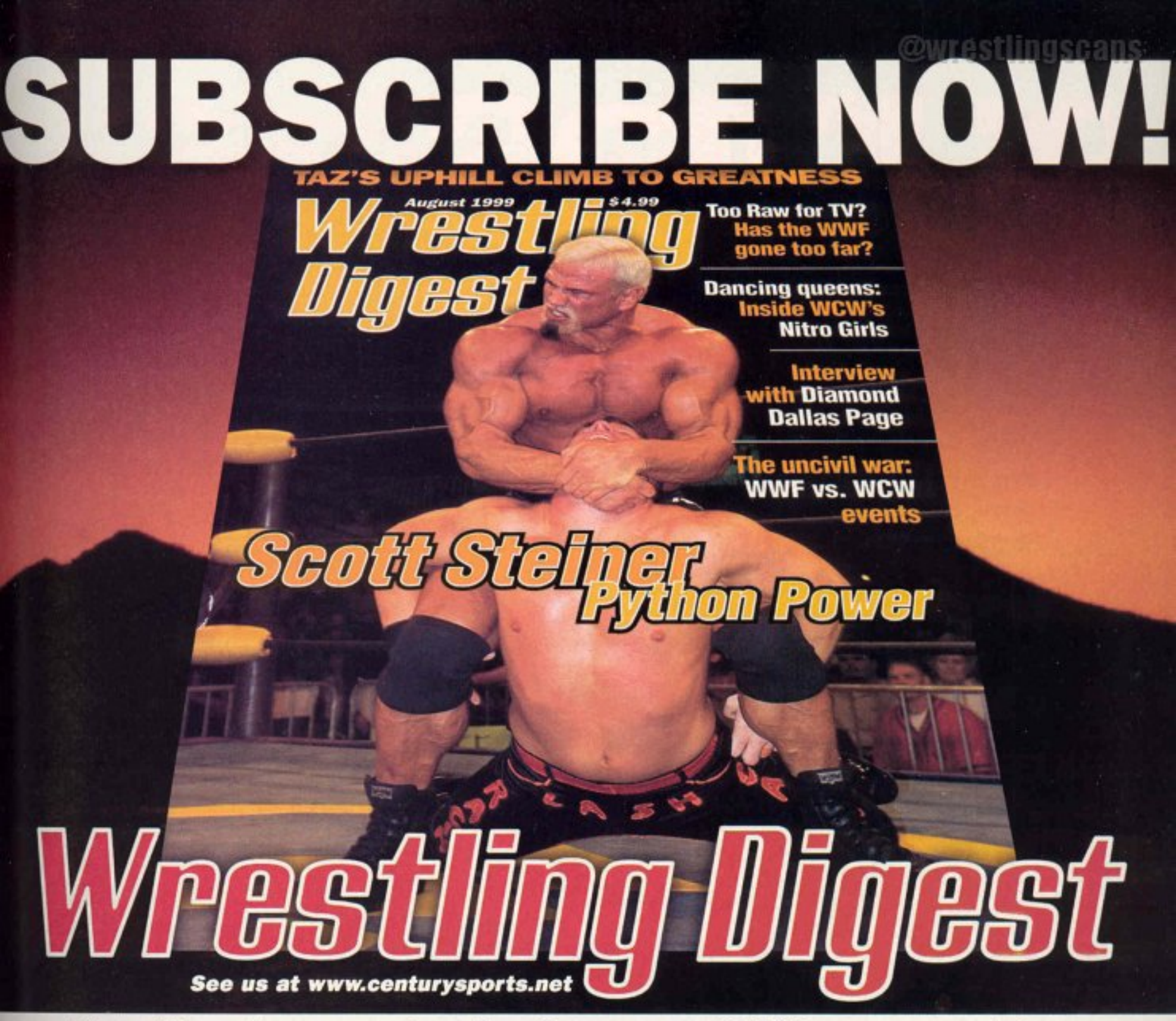

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BUMPS

by Donny Laible

Psst! Pop quiz time. Rules permit wearing thinking masks for this one. After four years of self-sacrifice and experiencing physically unforgiving combat on Extreme Championship Wrestling's front line, guess who keeps coming back proudly for more? Try Bill Alfonso.

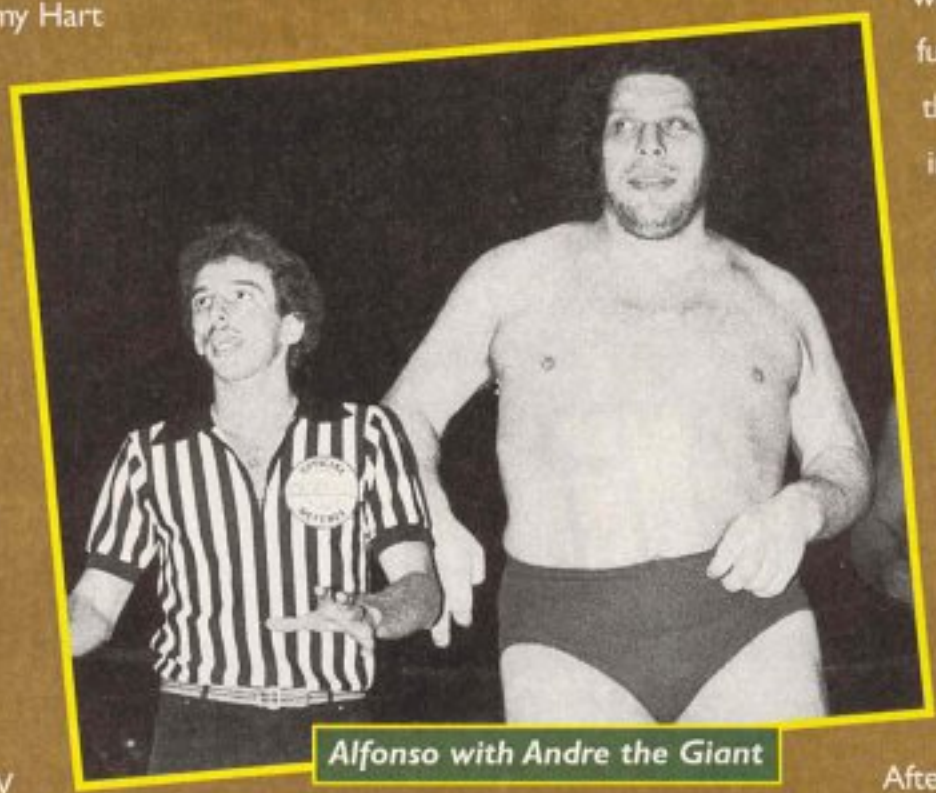
At 5-foot-10, 165 pounds soaking wet, Alfonso – tagged Fonzie by friends and opposition – makes fellow corner man Jimmy Hart appear well qualified for heavyweight participation. Fonzie has certainly earned his roster position with ECW. But long before debuting at the Arena on May 13, 1995, in his then-trade role as a referee, and well more than 12 years before beginning anew as the manager of ECW bruiser Taz, the lifelong wrestling fan nearly packed in his dreams of making it in the business.

Despite not being a wrestler, the whistle-blowing Floridian is in some manner involved in a majority of ECW main events. As the mouthpiece for Sabu and Rob Van Dam, Fonzie's mug and sandpaper voice are as recognizable as any splashed on the weekly television show, and accompanies both to all arena bookings.

The longevity and perseverance illustrated by Fonzie, who totes from airport to arena whichever title belt either of his "meal tickets" has collected, is a tale worth exposing.

"Probably when I was 12 years old I started going to the matches at the Fort Homer Hesterly Armory on Howard Avenue in Tampa, Fla.," Fonzie recalled. "I went every week, and baby I was hooked."

Now 41, Fonzie displays that same childlike passion for his craft after clocking in 19 years of full-time duty. But even with his step-brother David Sierra touring globally as the Cuban Assassin, getting as much as a toe in wrestling when locker room chatter remained just that was much more difficult than finding an unindicted politician.



Alfonso with Andre the Giant

J.C. Dykes, a middle-aged manager stuffed in a tuxedo and with a cheesy, red-shoe-polish hair dye job was the only manager in the territory that Fonzie had to keep an eye on.

"You'd think because David was in the business that it was going to be easy for me to get a job," Fonzie said. "I wish it would have. I was on the road with him at one point in the Carolinas and didn't work a single show. But while we were in Texas, Dory Funk Jr., Joe Blanchard and Fritz von Erich gave me some shots, that's when I started to feel comfortable working."

But just getting properly prepped for big-time assignments came with great risk. Having officiated outlaw shows, or events run in established towns of then-National Wrestling Alliance promoters, the man who began calling it right down the middle faced being blackballed when the wrestling business, as Fonzie remembered, was hardcore kayfabe; intentionally secretive.

Still, slipping past the spies at outlaw shows, and starving on the road waiting for another's misfortune to turn into his avenue of opportunity, Fonzie resisted the want ads. Like many inspiring stories with successful conclusions, an 11th-hour telephone call by Carolina wrestler Paul Jones on behalf of the future "Manager of Champions" sealed the fate that would eventually park him in ECW.

"One of the referees in Tampa was fired, Paul suggested I be hired, and for the next seven years I worked the circuit," Fonzie said.

Anyone and everyone who was a draw in wrestling came through the Tampa region, from Ric Flair, Dusty Rhodes, Harley Race, and the Brisco brothers, to Bruno Sammartino.

After Tampa and dozens of other offices were swallowed up in the business' hunger to expand on a national level, wrestling life for Fonzie included stints with the WWF both as a referee and the personal chaperon to Argentinian giant Jorge Gonzales and in the WCW.

An exemplary soldier in wrestling's army and always the optimist, Fonzie never wavered at the risky-but-fascinating road ahead of him. As father, husband and professional ringside irritator, Fonzie is a success. Chalk up anther one for nice guys finishing first, and for Bill Alfonso. **ecw**

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ECW's Perfect Pair

Lance Storm and Tammy Lynn Bytch master the art of reinvention

By Matthew Scribe

A student at Wilfred Laurier University in Waterloo, Ontario, Lance Storm was an Advanced Business Administration major and a member of the Golden Hawks volleyball team when he made a career decision. While not a lifelong wrestling fan, he became interested in the sport as a teenager during the "rock and wrestling era" of the mid-80s.

He dropped out of school and headed to Calgary, Alberta, to train in the infamous Hart Dungeon, owned and operated by the legendary Stu Hart. Keith Hart would be his teacher in a group of students that included Chris Jericho, a man that Storm would compete with and against during the formative years of his career.

Storm cut his professional teeth in the Canadian Rocky Mountain Wrestling (CRMW) promotion. It was there that he first competed with frequent tag team partner and opponent, Chris Jericho. The two young grapplers formed an impressive tag team called Sudden Impact.

Ironically, Storm's first title would be a singles title he would win by defeating his own tag team partner. In a tournament to crown a Canadian Mid-Heavyweight champion, Storm upended Jericho in November 1992. He would go on to win a second strap by beating Jericho again over a year later.

Storm's path with Jericho would cross again in the now-defunct Smoky Mountain Wrestling. The two reunited, this time calling themselves The Thrillseekers. The union would be short-lived as their team never achieved the success predicted for them.

After setbacks and an injury to Jericho, the team disbanded.

Spotlight On Tammy Lynn

Tammy Lynn Bytch was a model for mail-order posters when a delivery man paid her a visit. He needed some of her posters autographed as part of a promotion for a local wrestling show. That delivery man turned out to be a wrestling promoter. Jokingly, Tammy Lynn said he should use her

on his show. It was a backhanded comment that led to her debut as Dawn Marie.

Even before her wrestling career started, Tammy Lynn had never shied from the spotlight. She reveled in the bright lights and glamour and longed to be the center of attention. This quality would truly manifest itself when she arrived in ECW. She had already appeared in numerous movies, where she portrayed everything from a vampire ("Carmila") to a waitress ("Evil Streets" and "The Watcher").

Tammy Lynn also appeared on a variety of television programs. She was a "Sock-It-To-Me" Girl on the MTV special "Austin Powers Psychedelic Pussycats" and a VJ on Country Music Madness.

Tammy Lynn initially fashioned herself as an arrogant debutante. She wore long gowns to the ring and sprayed perfume from an atomizer, freshening the air for her men.

She went on to become an indy sensation as she made appearances in PCW, AWC, and MCW, managing such stars as Devon Storm, Jimmy Snuka, Ace Darling, Pitbull #2, Steve Corino, Buddy Landell, and Lance Diamond.

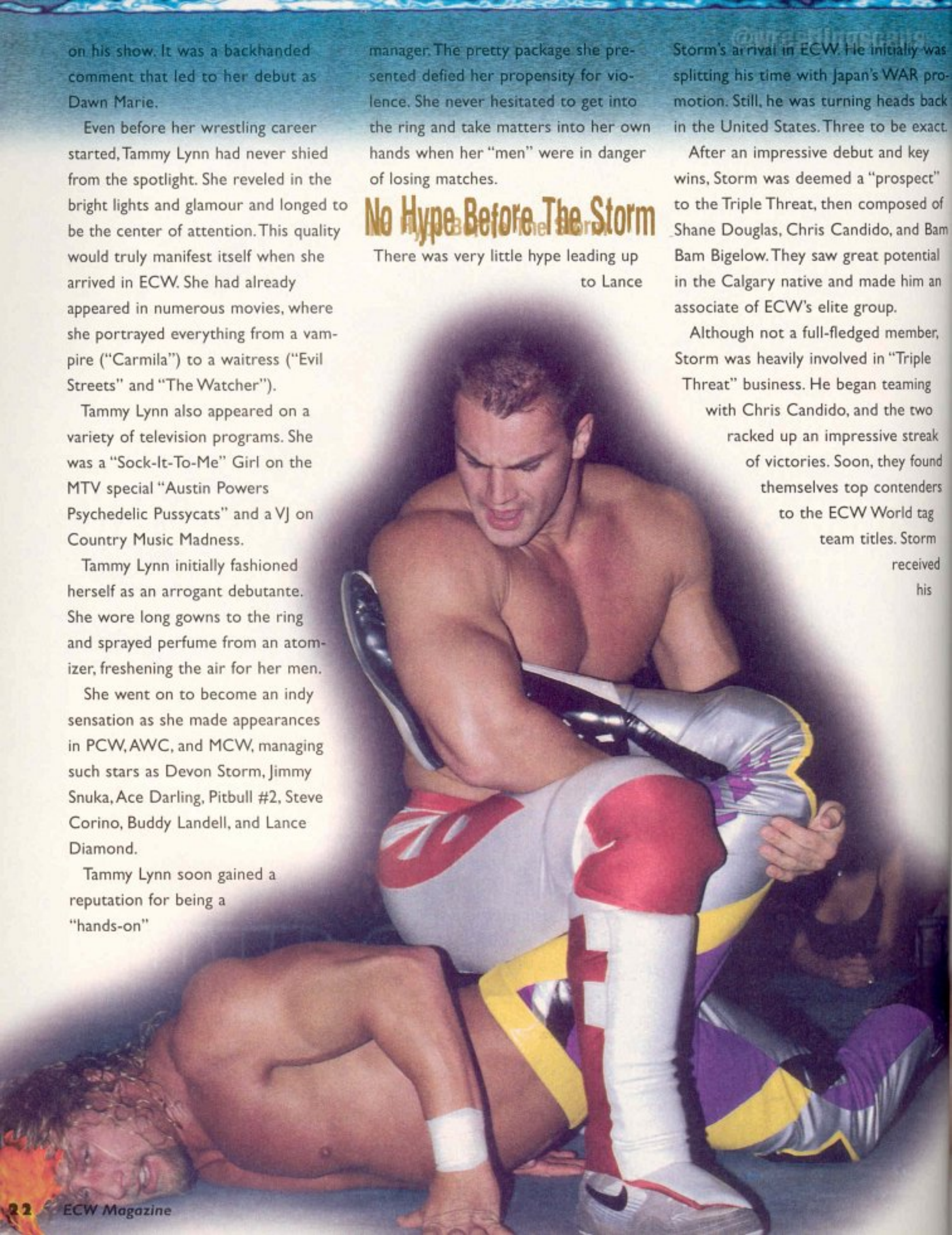
Tammy Lynn soon gained a reputation for being a "hands-on" manager. The pretty package she presented defied her propensity for violence. She never hesitated to get into the ring and take matters into her own hands when her "men" were in danger of losing matches.

No Hype Before The Storm

There was very little hype leading up to Lance Storm's arrival in ECW. He initially was splitting his time with Japan's WAR promotion. Still, he was turning heads back in the United States. Three to be exact.

After an impressive debut and key wins, Storm was deemed a "prospect" to the Triple Threat, then composed of Shane Douglas, Chris Candido, and Bam Bam Bigelow. They saw great potential in the Calgary native and made him an associate of ECW's elite group.

Although not a full-fledged member, Storm was heavily involved in "Triple Threat" business. He began teaming with Chris Candido, and the two racked up an impressive streak of victories. Soon, they found themselves top contenders to the ECW World tag team titles. Storm received his



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first taste of ECW gold when he and Candido defeated then-champions Doug Furnas and Phil LaFon, and Balls Mahoney and Axl Rotten in a "Three-Way Dance" on December 6, 1997.

Storm and Candido jelled as a team and dominated ECW's tag team division. Some said they had great chemistry together. However, it would be chemistry that drove a wedge between the two. Not the chemistry between the duo, but the supposed chemistry between Storm and Candido's love interest.

Candido was convinced that his longtime girlfriend and manager, Tammy Lynn Sytch, had a crush on his partner. Driven by jealousy and fueled with rage, Candido decided to end any possible amorous intentions by Storm or Sytch in a very decisive manner. With the blessing of the Triple Threat, he turned on his partner.

Candido and Storm were no longer a functioning unit. Most wrestling promotions would have stripped them of the tag team titles. But that is not how ECW and Paul Heyman, in particular, operate. Heyman, intent on maintaining the honor of the belts, ordered the dysfunctional duo to continue defending the championship. Now Candido and Storm were champions out of necessity, not choice. They despised each other, and that dissension often spilled into their matches.

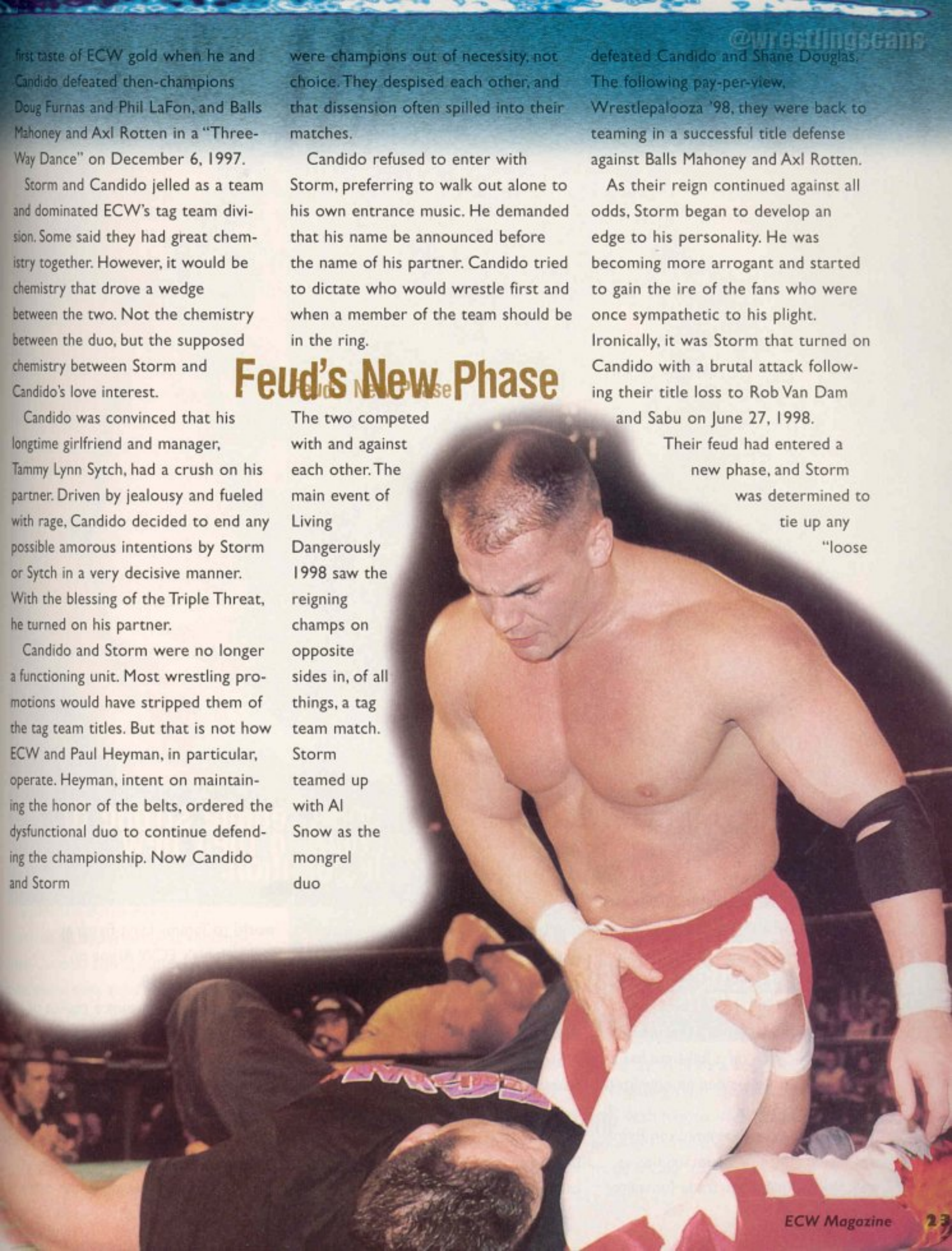
Candido refused to enter with Storm, preferring to walk out alone to his own entrance music. He demanded that his name be announced before the name of his partner. Candido tried to dictate who would wrestle first and when a member of the team should be in the ring.

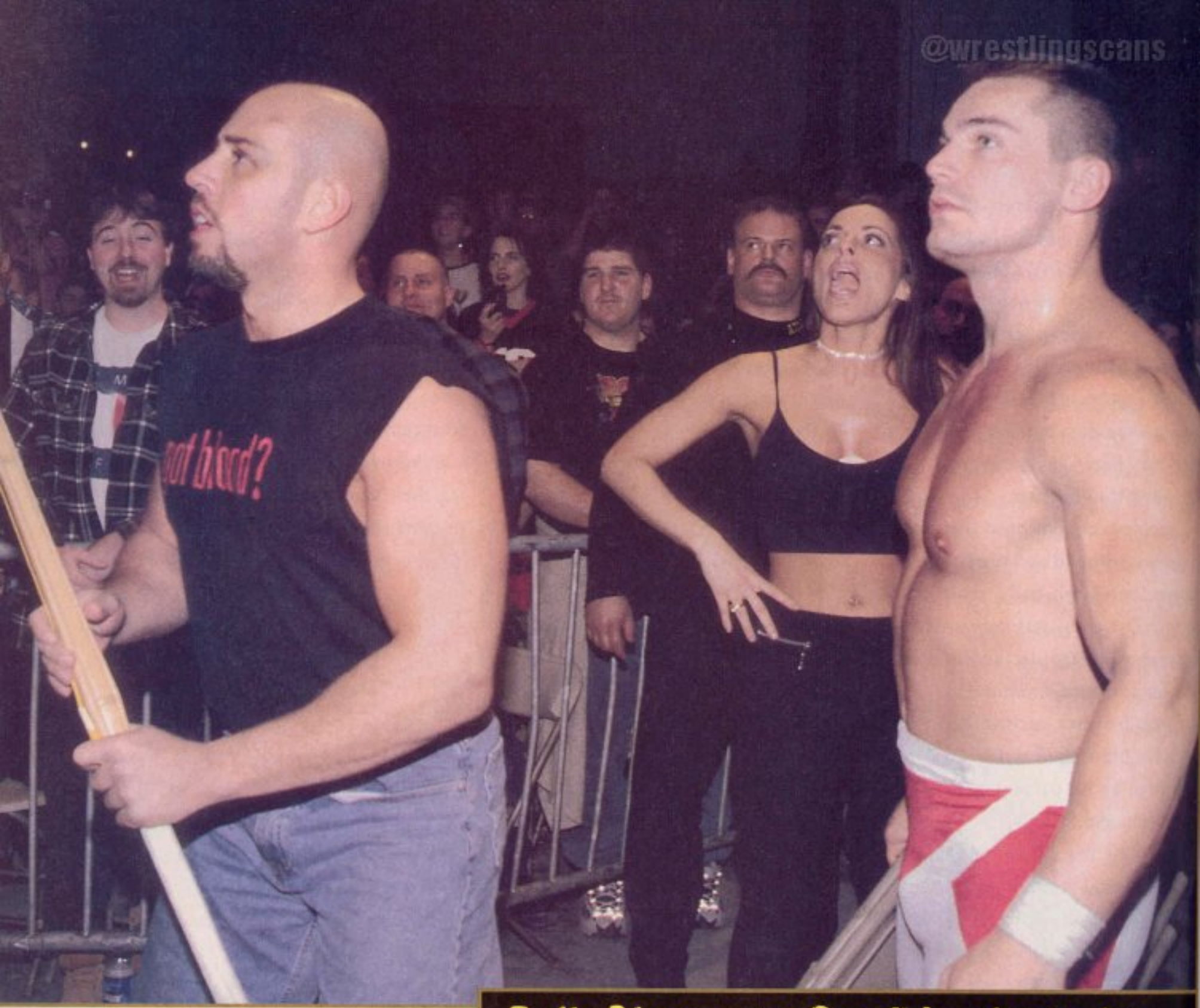
Feud's New Phase

The two competed with and against each other. The main event of Living Dangerously 1998 saw the reigning champs on opposite sides in, of all things, a tag team match. Storm teamed up with Al Snow as the mongrel duo defeated Candido and Shane Douglas. The following pay-per-view, Wrestlepalooza '98, they were back to teaming in a successful title defense against Balls Mahoney and Axl Rotten.

As their reign continued against all odds, Storm began to develop an edge to his personality. He was becoming more arrogant and started to gain the ire of the fans who were once sympathetic to his plight. Ironically, it was Storm that turned on Candido with a brutal attack following their title loss to Rob Van Dam and Sabu on June 27, 1998.

Their feud had entered a new phase, and Storm was determined to tie up any "loose





Both Storm and Credible strode to ringside, confident in their new "Franchise" designation.

ends" that he may have had in his previous battles with Candido.

Lance Storm was looking to gain an upper hand in his feud with Chris Candido. A victory over Candido at Heatwave '98 was not enough to satisfy his growing bloodlust. Candido had just reacquired the professional services of longtime love and manager Tammy Lynn Sytch on a full-time basis. Storm felt that he needed an equalizer to the former Sunny.

At the same time, Tammy Lynn Bytch was looking for new opportunities as well. She had plied her trade for quite awhile in the independents and was looking for a chance to be in a brighter spotlight. As has always been her custom, she desired to have more attention lavished upon her.

Storm needed Bytch, and she needed Storm. A new union was born.

Introducing Tammy Lynn Bytch

Before his match with Chris Candido, Lance Storm introduced the wrestling world to Tammy Lynn Bytch at Philadelphia's ECW Arena on September 3, 1998.

She was by no means a replica of Sytch. She was merely a weapon in the war Storm was waging with Candido. If the camera loved her, Bytch loved it back and more. Any opportunity to have the lens focused on her was gold to Bytch. She would jump around, flailing her arms and waving at the camera,

informing anyone watching that she was a star.

Candido was livid at the obvious slight toward his girlfriend, which only fueled his anger toward his former tag team partner. At one point in the match, Candido had Storm pinned when Bytch ran in to interfere, stopping the referee's count. Her counterpart could not stand there and allow an injustice to happen.

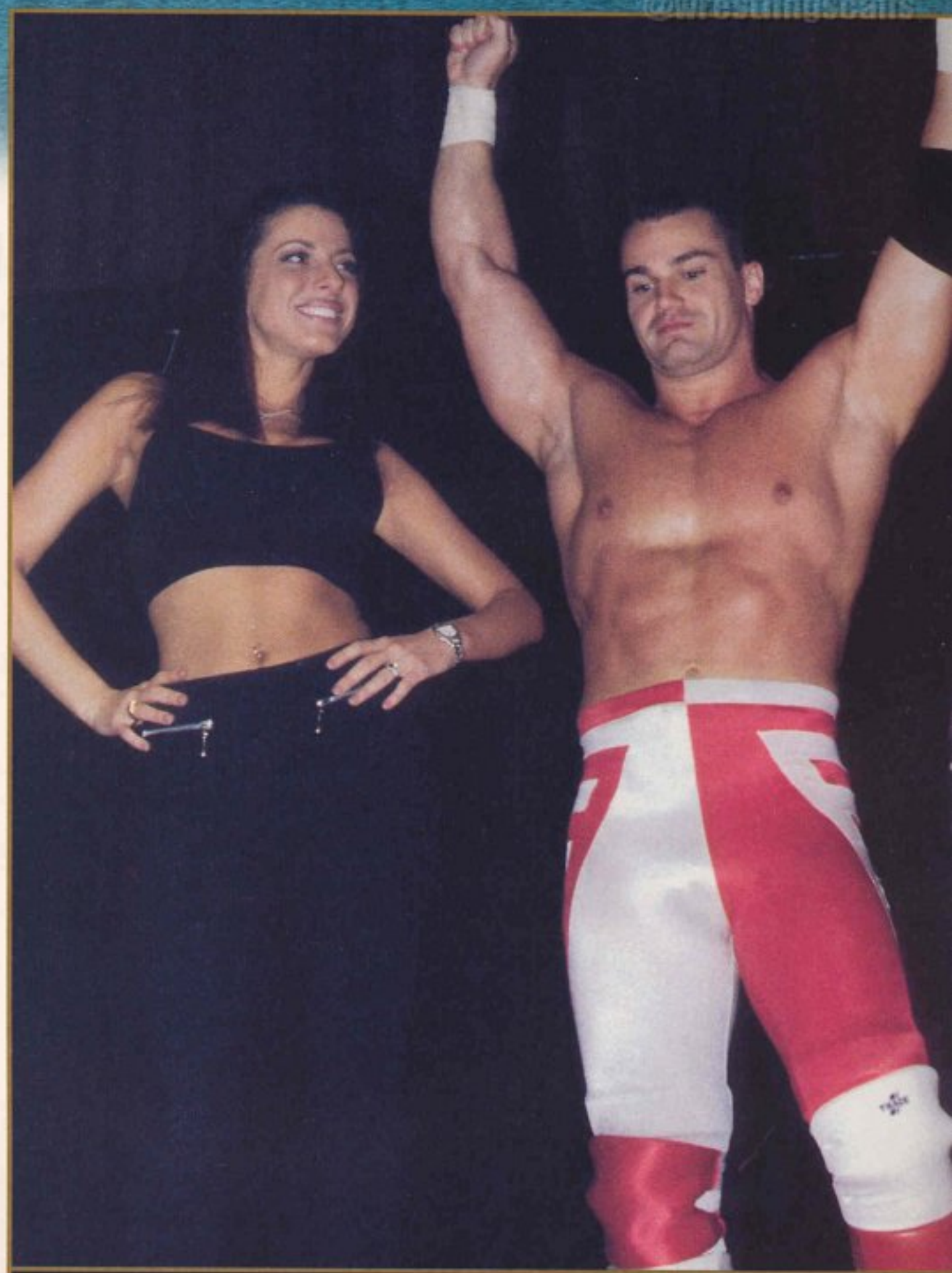
Sytch crawled through the ropes to confront Bytch, who was ready for battle with her newfound foe. She swung at Sytch, but she ducked, grabbed her long, brown hair, and flipped her across the ring. Stunned, Bytch was helpless, and Sytch stripped her down to her bra and panties.

Sytch was not finished as she took over for Candido, rolled Storm up in a small package, and registered a win for her man.

That confrontation led to a mixed-tag team match with Storm and Bytch facing Candido and Sytch. Storm immediately threw down the psychological gauntlet by introducing his valet as "No Silicone Needed Tammy Lynn Bytch." The mind game did not pay off as Bytch again lost her clothing and Storm lost the match, having been pinned again by Sytch.

Storm and Bytch never truly received an opportunity at redemption. Candido and Sytch decided to take some time away from ECW for "personal reasons" unrelated to the torrid feud.

It was time for the dastardly duo to move on.



It was a repackaged Tammy Lynn Bytch who, with new clothes and a few "cosmetic changes," had undergone a stunning metamorphosis.

Stirring Things Up

Storm was not only agitating ECW fans with his tactics, but also his politics as well. He was taking on an anti-American attitude as he openly criticized the country of his employ and the citizens of it as well. He even went so far as to bring a copy of the "Wrestling With Shadows" documentary with him to ringside. Comparing his plight to that of Bret Hart's, Storm made it clear that he would not be

"screwed" by the person he perceived to be his "Vince McMahon," Paul Heyman.

Storm was determined to prove his superiority over his American counterparts. When word came of Shane Douglas passing the "Franchise" tag to another wrestler, Storm assumed it would be him. Justin Credible felt the same way. Douglas was to make the announcement in the ring. Both Storm and Credible strode to ringside, confident in their new "Franchise" designation. But Douglas shocked both men by selecting Tommy Dreamer.

Incensed, Storm and Credible attacked Douglas and Dreamer. A dejected and frustrated Storm had clearly found a new foe in the "Franchise."

Anyone who has faced Lance Storm knows that when he targets an opponent, he will go to any means necessary to cripple him, both physically and mentally. He proved that by transforming Dawn Marie to Tammy Lynn Bytch in his feud with Chris Candido. Storm finds a weakness, whether in mind or body, and exploits it.

Storm employed a similar strategy in his newfound war with Dreamer. A week after the confrontation with Dreamer, Storm introduced his "new valet." He claimed that Tammy Lynn Bytch was long gone and no longer needed. He was employing the services of a new femme fatale, a woman that ECW fans knew and loved. The mystery woman entered the arena to the shock of ECW fans and to the dismay of Tommy Dreamer.

The name was familiar, and due to some creative television camera angles, the look was as well. Storm had brought back "Beulah" to ECW. But it was not the Beulah that ECW fans knew. It was a repackaged Tammy Lynn Bytch who, with new clothes and a few "cosmetic changes," had undergone a stunning metamorphosis.

Beulah Arrives

Storm had discovered Dreamer's Achilles Heel. With that knowledge, he was determined to control the future of his feud with Dreamer by digging into his past. Storm was playing a very dangerous psychological game as he tugged on the heartstrings of Dreamer by introducing a carbon copy of his longtime confidante and valet.

Storm is crawling inside the head of Tommy Dreamer. He is beating down the "Innovator of Violence" from the inside. By displaying his Beulah in full view of Dreamer, he is employing a strategy where his opponent is constantly distracted by memories of the past. Storm taunts Dreamer as he flaunts his "new" valet.

Storm and Dreamer have met in tag team and singles matches, including the main event tag match at Living Dangerously with Storm and Credible facing Dreamer and Douglas. Dreamer and Douglas gained a victory, but the fire that fuels this feud is far from over. As the wars continue, each match becomes more violent and more personal. Storm has fortified his forces not only with Credible, but also the former Jackyl of the WWF, Cyrus the Virus.

Dreamer has responded to Storm's games with a psychological ploy of his own. He claims that Storm is using performance-enhancing drugs to improve his already impressive physique and increase his strength.

Storm publicly denied the allegation and had Beulah produce a urine sample as evidence. Storm challenged Dreamer to produce the same. It was Storm's move now in this mental "chess match" and a battle of "one-upmanship."

For his efforts, Storm was attacked by Dreamer and, adding insult to injury, was doused by his own urine specimen, courtesy of Dreamer.

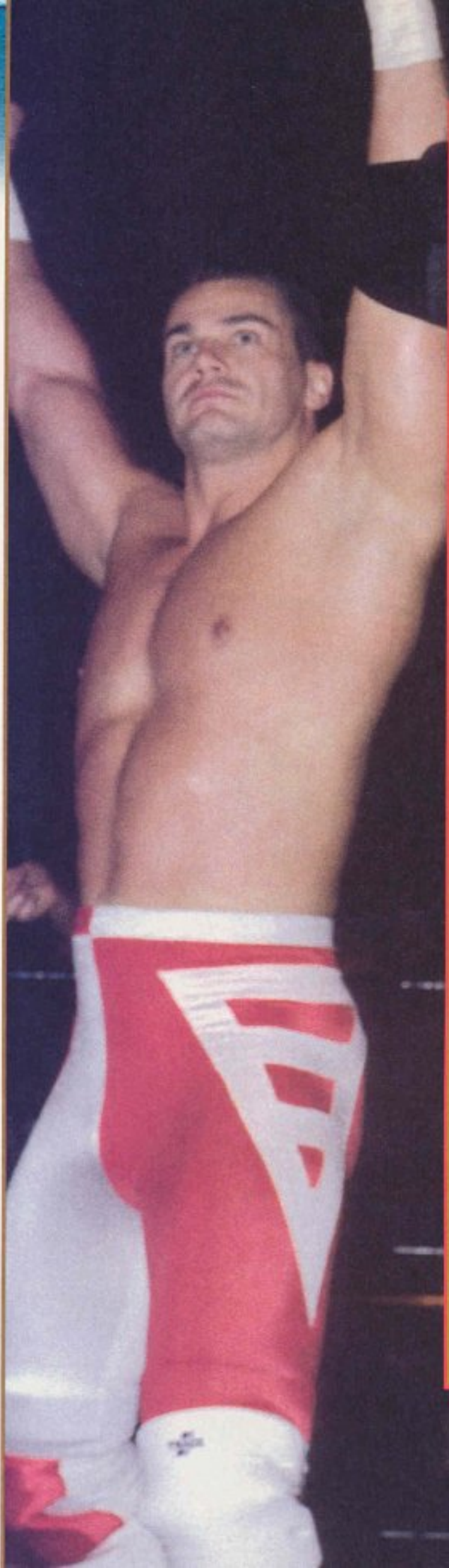
Beulah, meanwhile, has found a female foe in the process of the Storm-Dreamer war: Francine, long-time manager of the "Franchise" and now Dreamer. At Living Dangerously, Beulah tried to interject herself into the main event bout by attempting a low blow to Douglas. Francine took exception to her interference and attacked her.

She is toying with Dreamer's emotions as well. By immersing herself in this alter-ego, she is not only assuming Beulah's physical appearance, but her personality as well. In interviews, she bemoans the fact that Dreamer "abandoned" her. While Dreamer clearly realizes that this is not the Beulah he knew, there is an emotional element that is affecting him.

Transformations

There is a frightening element to Lance Storm and Beulah. Just when you think you have them figured out, they reinvent themselves. Storm went from a popular sensation in ECW to an anti-American, mind-controlling manipulator. Beulah has transformed herself to suit the needs of Storm's agenda.

As long as the camera is focused on her, she does not mind in the least. ecw



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Lance Storm

Born: April 3, 1969; Sarnia, Ont.

Vitals: 5 feet 10 inches, 228 pounds

Titles Won: ECW World tag team title (with Chris Candido)

Pay-Per-View Appearances:
Barely Legal (1997): Lost to Rob Van Dam
November to Remember (1997): With Chris Candido, defeated Tommy Rogers and Jerry Lynn
Living Dangerously (1998): With Al Snow, defeated Chris Candido and Shane Douglas
Wrestlepalooza (1998): With Chris Candido, successfully defended the ECW World tag team title against Axl Rotten and Balls Mahoney
Heatwave (1998): Lost to Chris Candido
November to Remember (1998): Defeated Jerry Lynn
Guilty as Charged (1999): Lost to ECW World Television Champion Rob Van Dam

Pay-Per-View Record: 5-3

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Tammy Lynn Bytch

Born: November 3, 1970; Rahway, N.J.

Vitals: 5 feet 7 inches, 120 pounds, brown hair, hazel eyes

Managed: Lance Storm, Devon Storm, Jimmy Snuka, The Pitbulls, Steve Corino, Buddy Landell, Ace Darling, Lance Diamond

Pay-Per-View Appearances: November to Remember (1998) Guilty As Charged (1999)

AKA: "Dangerous" Dawn Marie, Tammy Lynn Bytch, Beulah

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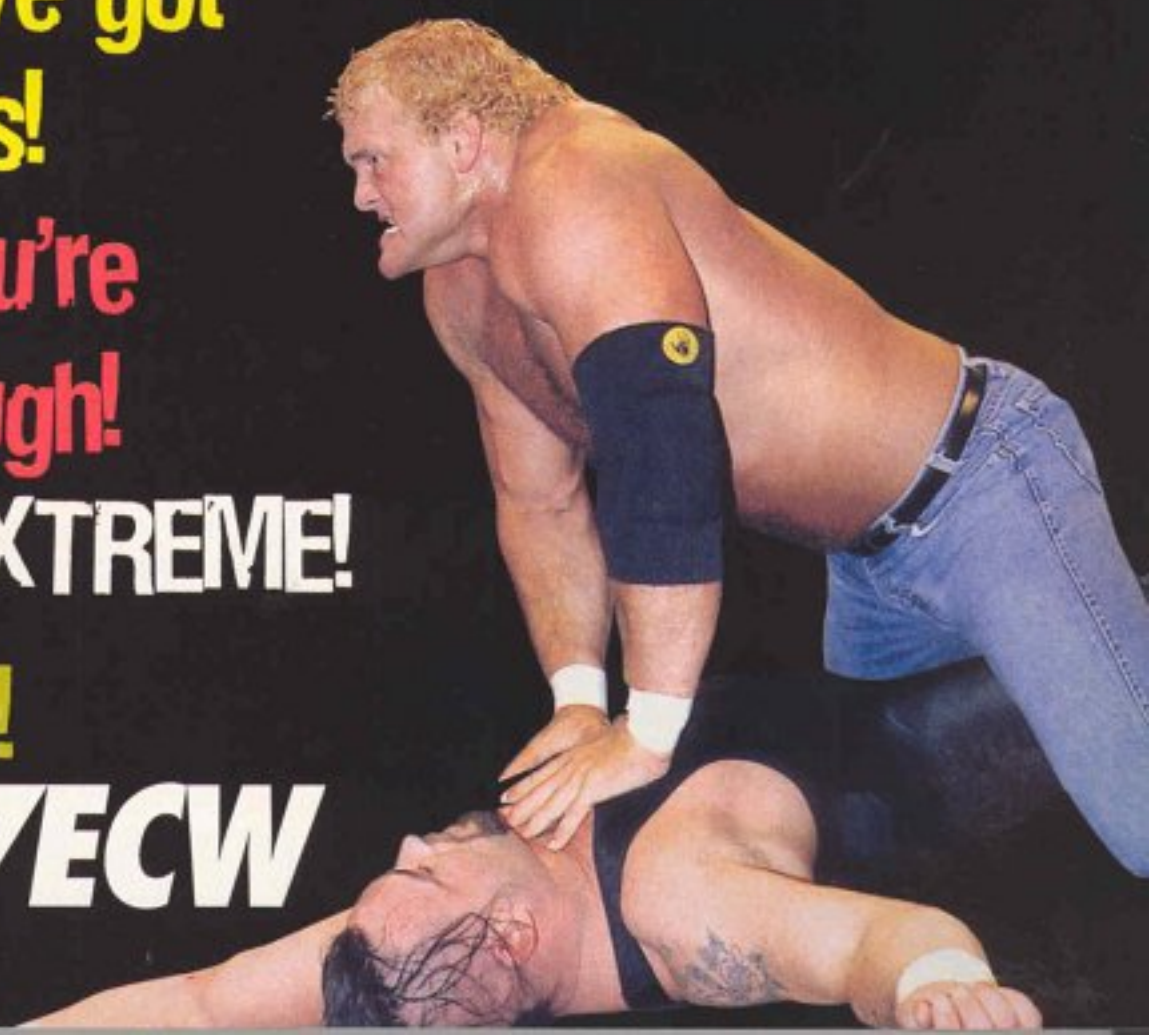

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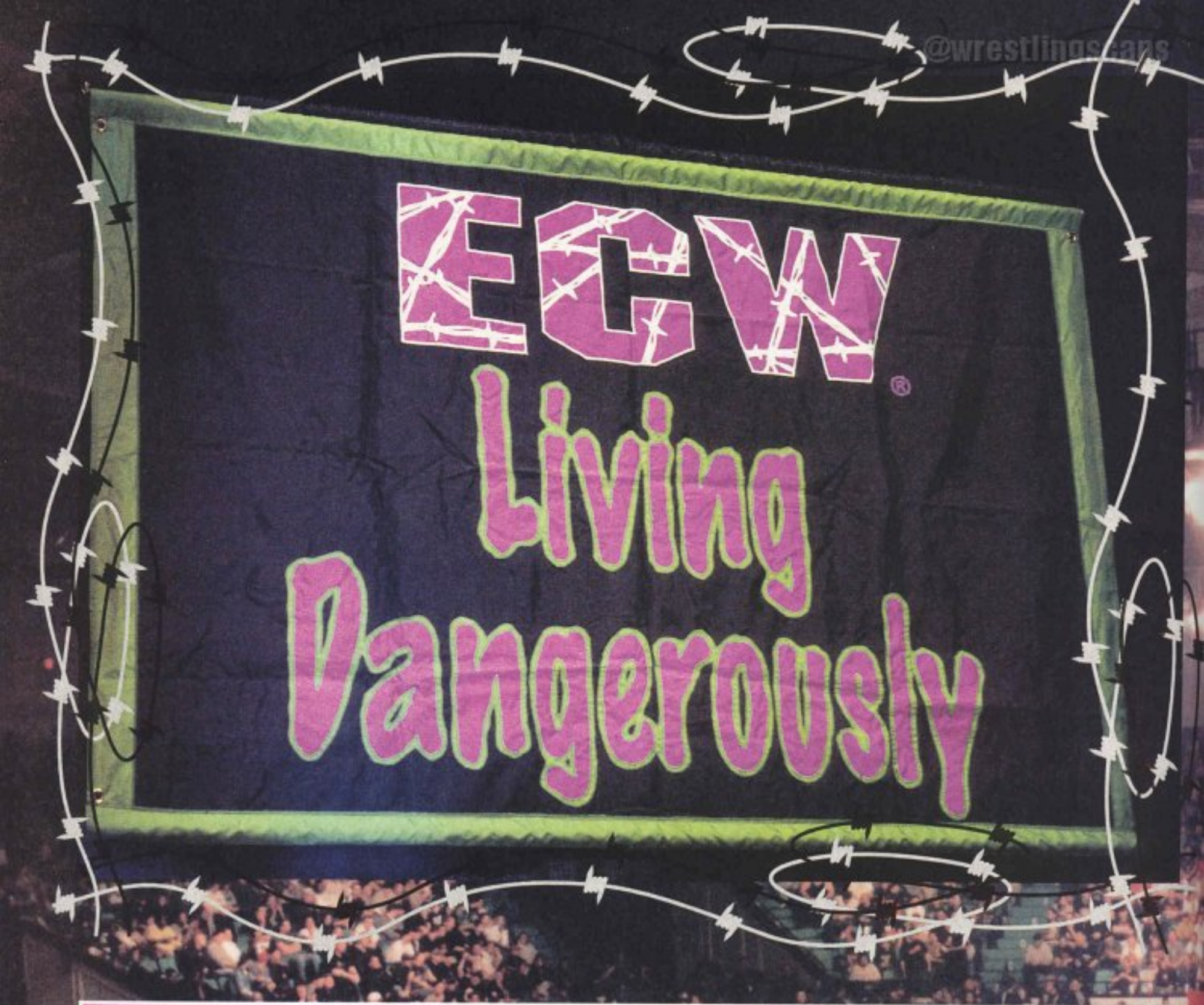


ECW "Living Dangerously" Pay-Per-View

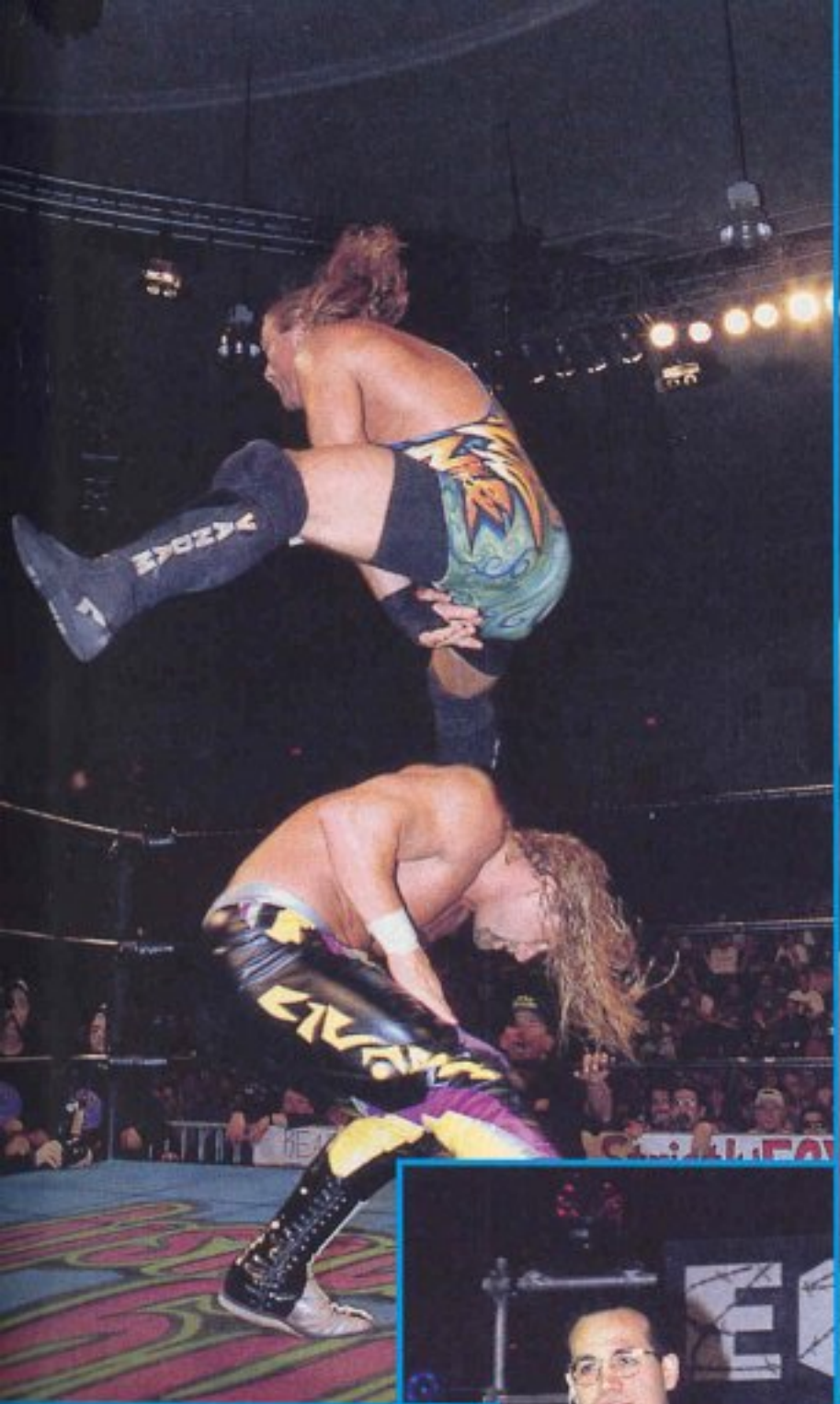
Asbury Park, N.J., was the site for Extreme Championship Wrestling's Living Dangerously pay-per-view on March 21, 1999. A sellout crowd gathered at Convention Hall for the ECW event.

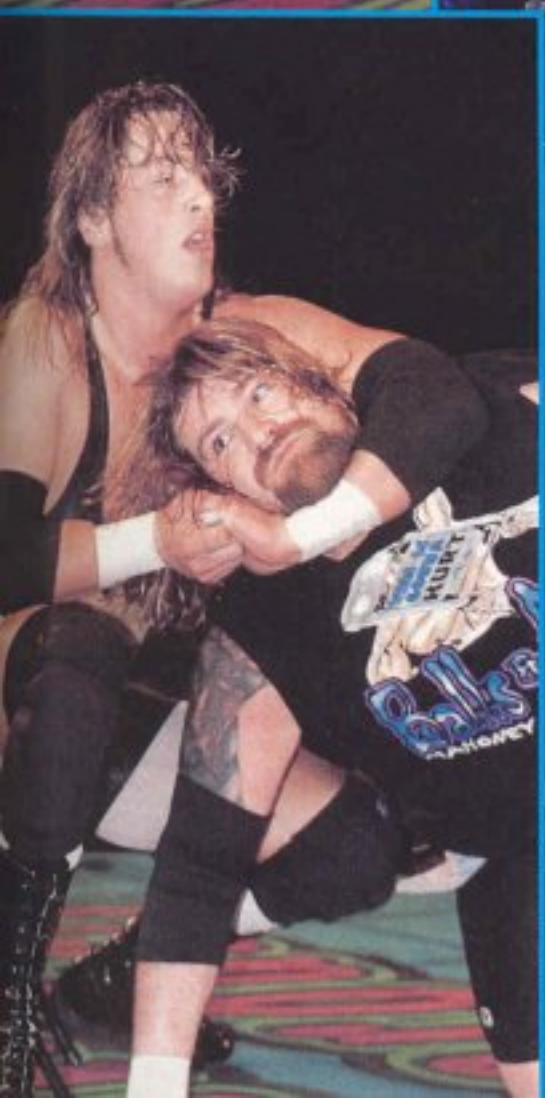
Before the show went live on pay-per-view, Nova and Chris Chetti defeated Roadkill and Danny Doring.

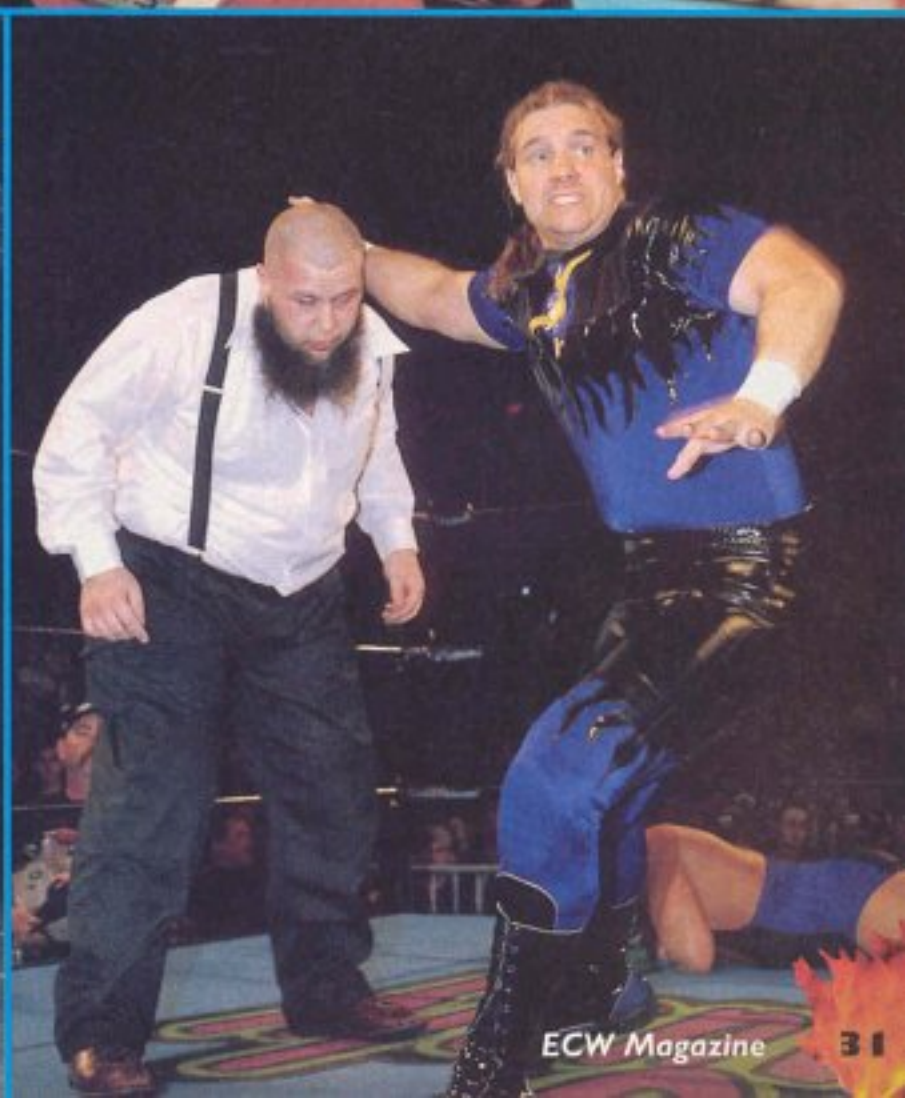
After that opening, porn star Jasmine St. Clair and Lance Wright entered the ring. Jasmine told fan she was the "Queen of Extreme," and Francine came out. Jasmine pushed her, and Francine showed who the real "Queen of Extreme" was by laying her out. Francine later did the same to Wright.

Early in the pay-per-view coverage, Steven Prazak interviewed Taz, who said he was going after Sabu's injured jaw. Taz said he would be the unified world champion, and added that he was a better champion than anyone else. That set the stage for the first of several thrilling matches.

@wrestlingscans

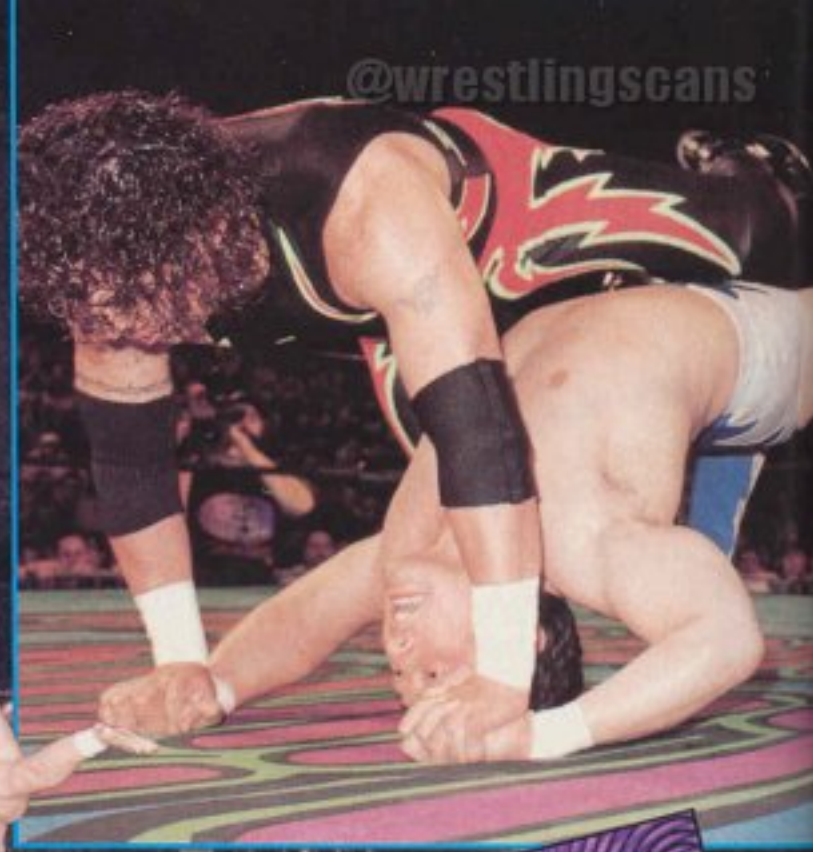






yoshiro tajiri vs. super crazy

the action: The pace picked up about two minutes in, with the high-flying antics fans have come to expect from the Lucha style. Some of the high spots included a head scissors applied by Tajiri that tossed Super Crazy to the entrance ramp, and three straight moonsaults by Super Crazy off the bottom, middle and top ropes. The performances by both athletes were spectacular, and both demonstrated incredible potential for the future. To claim victory, Super Crazy got a quick roll up on Tajiri for the three count.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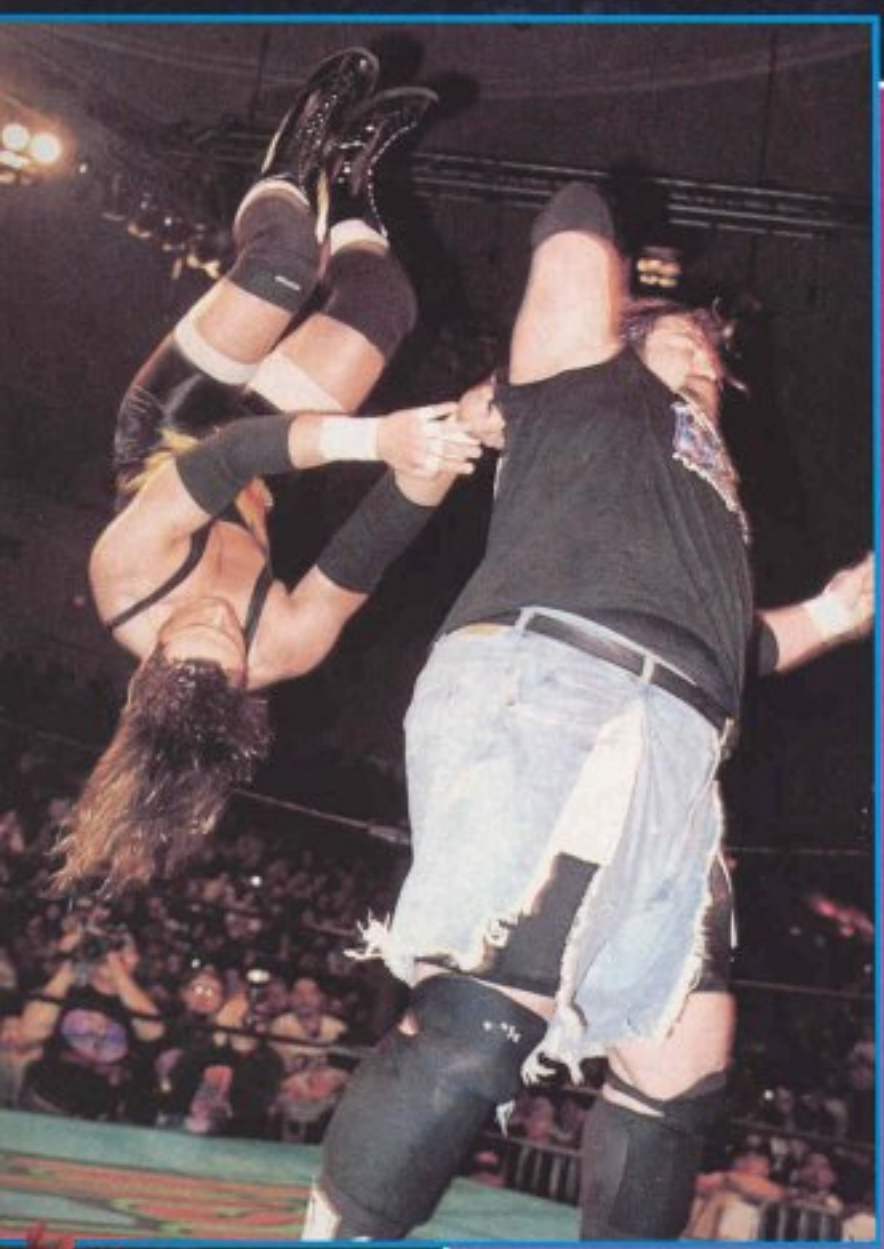


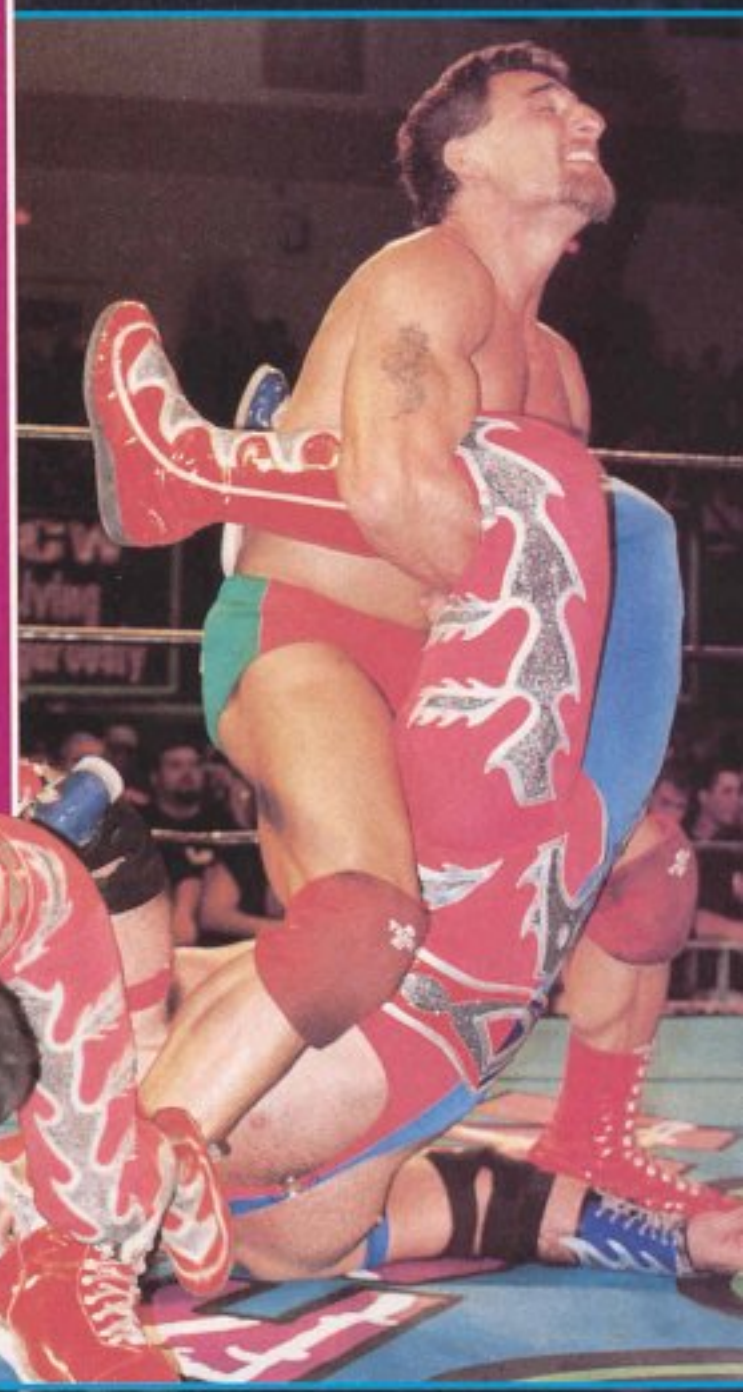
steve corino vs. balls mahoney

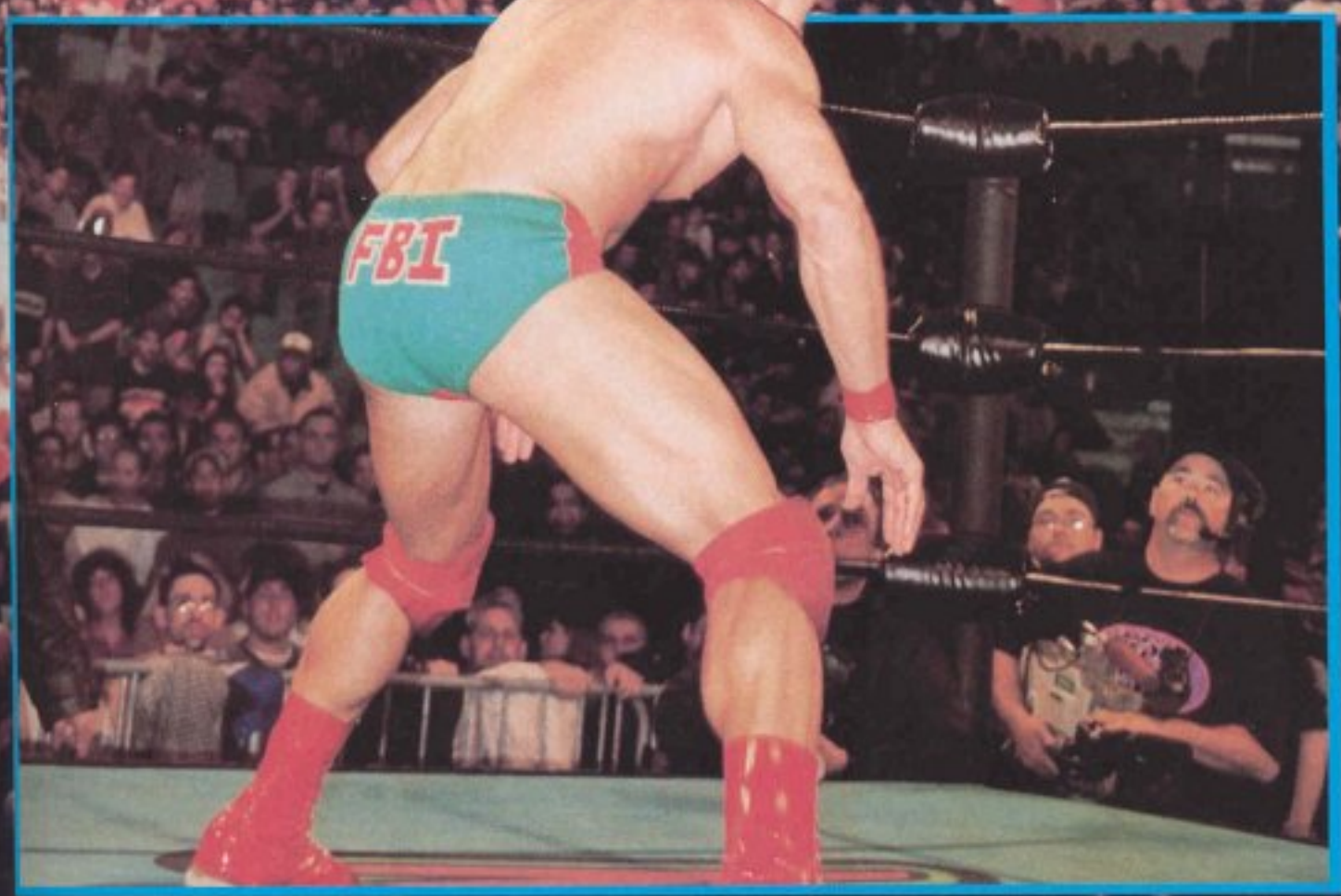
the action: Fans in attendance at ECW's March 13 house show recognized this as being about the same match as the one held that night. It was pretty much Balls all the way, with the biggest highlight being a frogsplash by Balls that saw him fly across three quarters of the ring to hit the prone Corino. Corino's only real sustained offense came when he hit Balls with a nicely executed Superkick. The inevitable chairshot by Mahoney rocked Corino's head, with a three count immediately following.

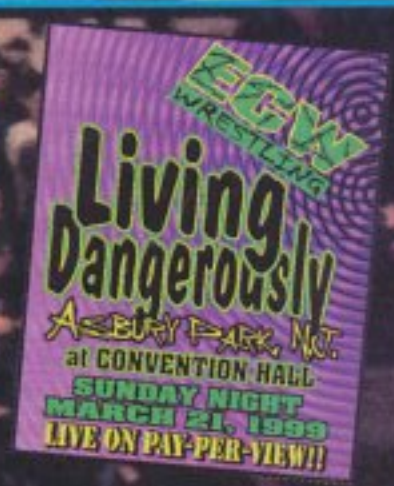
@wrestlingscans

antifaz del norte vs. little guido

the action: At the outset, Guido caught up with Antifaz and hit an Italian leg sweep off the top rope. Guido put Antifaz into a move that most resembled the Lion Tamer and that Joey Styles dubbed a "Sicilian Crab." Antifaz eventually submitted. Tracey Smothers laid out Guido, but then Sal stepped in between the two. Sal went to help Guido, but Rich cracked him from behind with the Italian flag. Sal then chased Smothers and Rich out of the ring and helped Guido to the back.

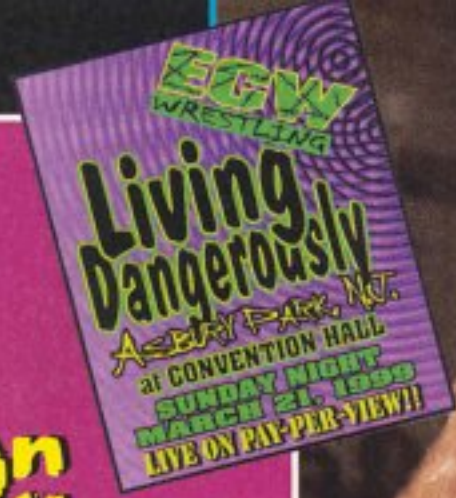






@wrestlingscans

ecw world television title match: champion rob van dam vs. jerry lynn

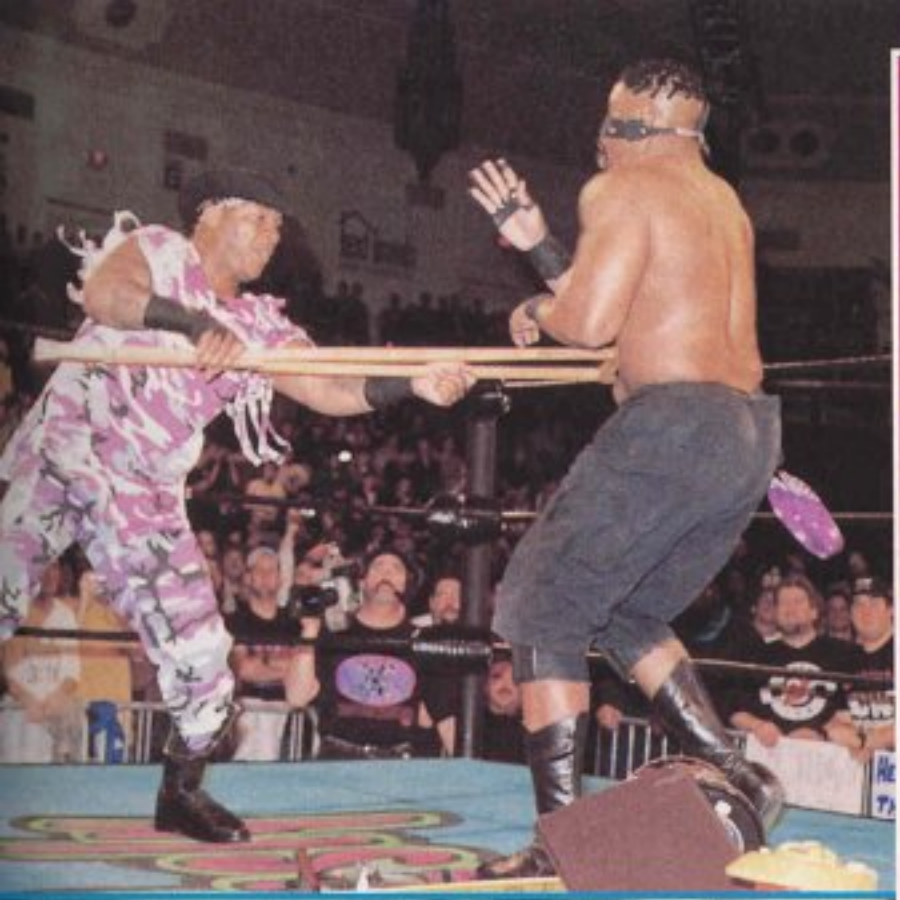


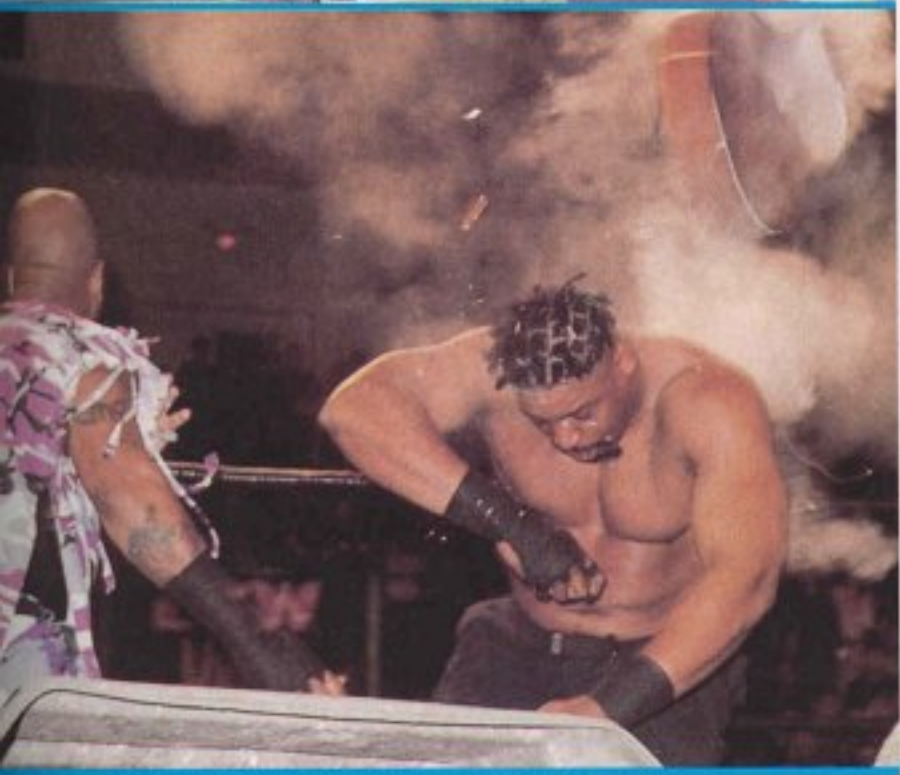
the action: Rob Van Dam hit the ring to the biggest pop of the night. The match started with a quick exchange on the mat. Around 1:20, they went into an incredible exchange of moves in the corner, including lunges, moonsaults, and kicks. Alfonso introduced a chair into the ring at 8:25. Rob laid the chair flat, then put Lynn in a surfboard that had Van Dam's back lying across the chair. Then, he launched Lynn out of the surfboard and rolled out of the way, leaving Lynn's head to crash onto the chair!

Van Dam laid a chair across Lynn, then tried a moonsault onto him, but Lynn countered by raising his knees with the chair on them. They then exchanged a series of rolling pinfalls. Lynn hit a German suplex on Van Dam, with only a two count. The crowd roared, cheering both men on equally. Lynn hit a swinging DDT off the top rope onto a table that didn't break, then onto the floor. The fall appeared to stun Van Dam.

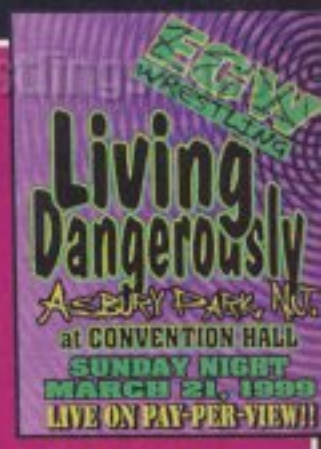
Van Dam regained the advantage, but then the bell rang for the time limit. After the time limit expired, referee John Finnegan said he was going to award the match and the title to Lynn because he had been the better wrestler in the match. But Lynn said he wanted to win the title in the ring, and Finnegan gave them five more minutes. Van Dam hit the Van Daminator at 1:18 of the overtime to get the three count. The crowd popped for both men as they exited.

Later in the show, Van Dam cut an interview, where he offered Lynn a rematch at Hardcore Heaven.





battle of the gangstas: new jack vs. mustafa



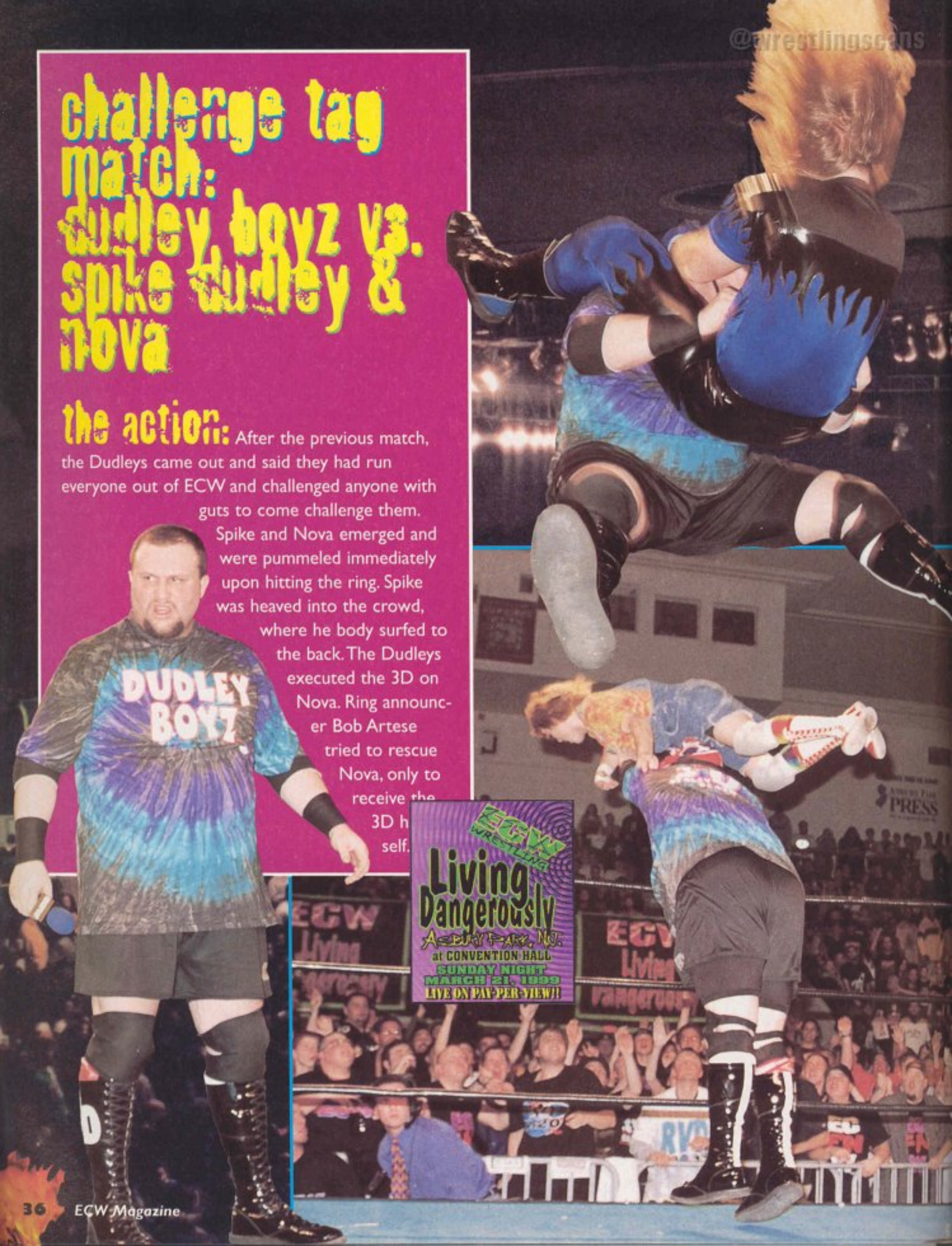
the action: New Jack got in a crutch shot right away, then followed up with not one but two computer keyboards. He then pulled out a golf club and proceeded to "tee off." One rather humorous moment during the match came when Mustafa used a child's toy lawnmower on New Jack. As usual, New Jack set up a table, then put Mustafa on it. He taped him on, then ascended the bleachers to the overhang by the main doors to the arena, leaping on Mustafa.

Following the move, both men seemed unable to get up. New Jack grabbed a security guard and asked him to escort Mustafa and him back to the ring. New Jack got the pin and was jumped by the Dudleys.

@wrestlingscans

challenge tag match: dudley boyz vs. spike dudley & nova

the action: After the previous match, the Dudleys came out and said they had run everyone out of ECW and challenged anyone with guts to come challenge them. Spike and Nova emerged and were pummeled immediately upon hitting the ring. Spike was heaved into the crowd, where he body surfed to the back. The Dudleys executed the 3D on Nova. Ring announcer Bob Artese tried to rescue Nova, only to receive the 3D h self.



@wrestlingscans

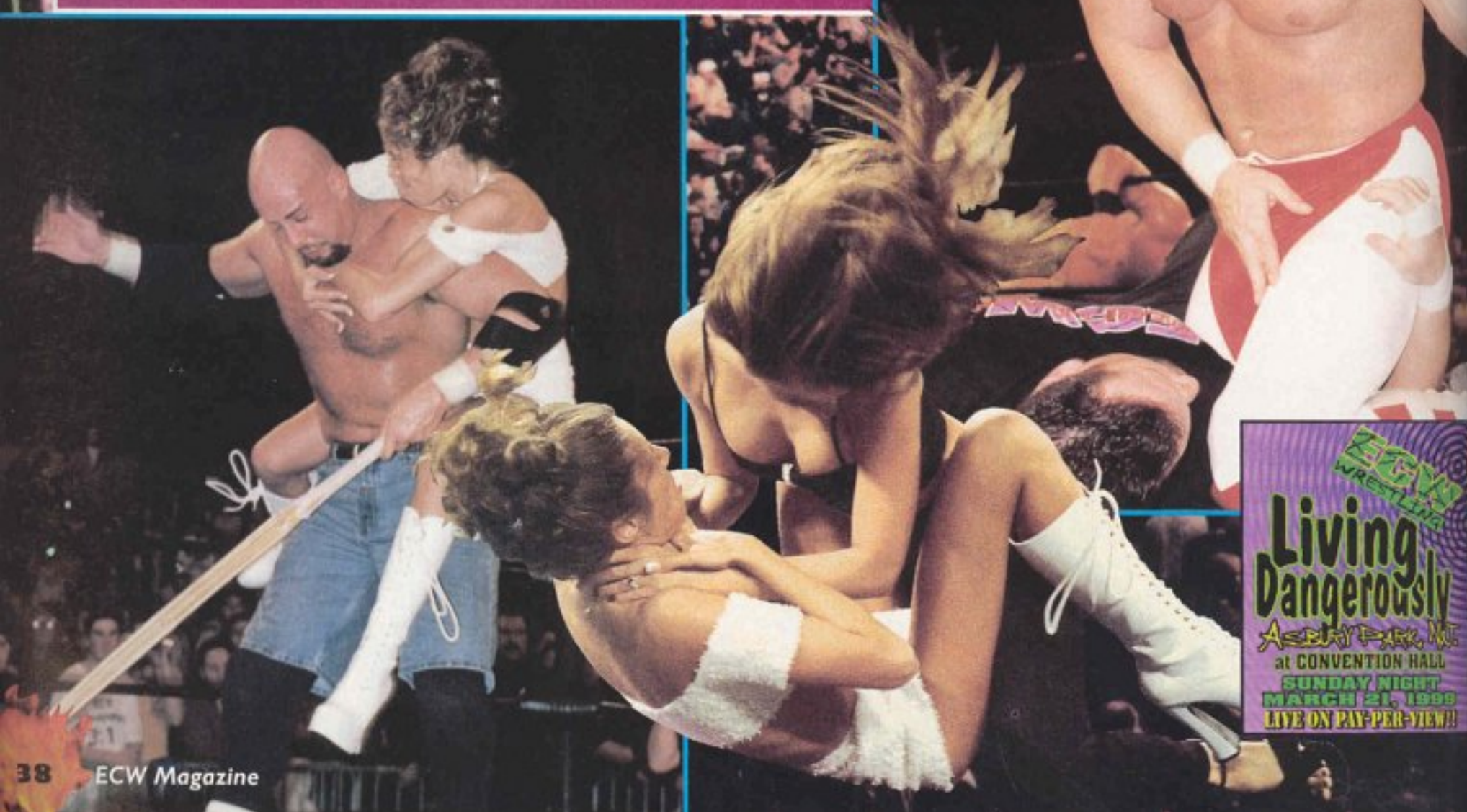
dudley boyz vs. sid & spike dudley

the action: The Dudleys worked Sid over, trying for a double clothesline, but Sid turned it into a double chokeslam. D-Von felt the first Sid powerbomb of the evening at 1:22. Sid dumped D-Von out to the ramp, then Spike surfed his way back to the ring! He joined them on the ramp and dumped D-Von off the gurney. Sid then picked up the gurney and dropped it across D-Von's back. Spike nailed Buh Buh with the Acid Drop for the win. Jeff Jones sentenced Spike, who got chokeslammed off the ramp.

the franchise war: tommy dreamer and shane douglas vs. lance storm and justin credible

the action: The match began with Storm and Dreamer, and Dreamer won the first exchange. Douglas and Credible both tagged in, and Douglas executed an excellent series of rolling suplexes, ending with a drawn-out vertical suplex. In a bit of irony that many might have missed, Douglas and Credible performed an exchange of chops, a whip into the ropes and a clothesline from the apron that is classic Ric Flair.

The match sped up, as Francine was bumped by Storm. She then brought in a ladder, which Dreamer took and set across the ropes in the corner. Credible got launched into the ladder face first. The ladder was then placed across the ropes in the middle of one side. Dreamer and Douglas soared off the apron, pulling the ladder down, causing it to lever up and hit Credible and Storm in the face. Douglas got a belly to belly suplex on Credible, followed by a two count. Credible grabbed the cane and was about to hit Douglas when Francine grabbed the cane from him and delivered an impressive high-kick to Credible's jaw. Douglas nailed Credible with the Pittsburgh Plunge, rolling it into a small package for the win. Cyrus, previously known as The Jackyl, walked to the ring and delivered a headbutt to Francine's groin.



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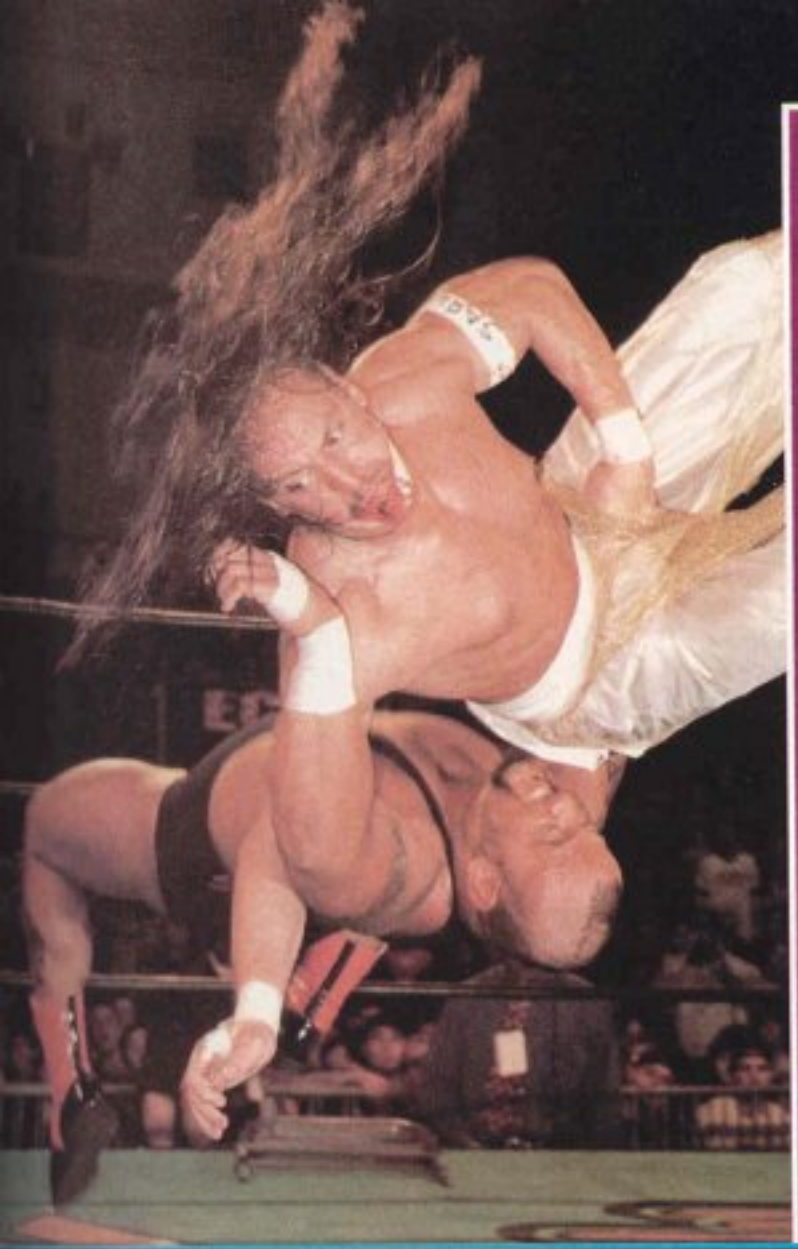


world title unification match: ecw world champion taz vs. ftw world champion sabu

the action: The early advantage went to Taz, who quickly went to work on Sabu's injured jaw. At 3:15, Sabu hit a baseball slide, knocking Taz into the crowd. Sabu followed up with his infamous Air Sabu leap into the crowd, only to be met by a chair that Taz held up in defense. They battled their way through the crowd, and Taz was whipped into the guardrail near the entrance ramp.

Soon Sabu was bleeding profusely from the mouth. They battled to the outside, where Sabu set up a table across the corner of the railing. They went back into the ring, and a sunset flip by Sabu caused both men to take a nasty fall to the floor. Despite being dazed, Sabu put Taz on the table in the corner. Then, from the top rope, he splashed onto Taz in a spectacular spot. Sabu covered, but only got two. They climbed back in, and Taz executed what started out as a pumphandle slam then turned into a fallaway slam. They climbed to the second buckle, where Taz issued a Tazplex. Sabu got another table and set it on an angle in the corner. Sabu fell victim to the overhead Tazplex into the table, just like Douglas did at Guilty As Charged.

Bill Alfonso threw in the towel again, but Sabu threw it back out. Just as that happened, Taz locked in the Tazmission. Sabu refused to submit. Eventually he lost consciousness and the referee rang the bell.

At the close of the match, Taz said that he appreciated Sabu's effort and demanded that Sabu shake his hand, which Sabu did. ecw

ECW in the HOUSE

Keep track of your favorite ECW wrestlers' performances with the following ECW house show results from around the United States. For pay-per-view coverage, see pages 30-39.

March 12, 1999
Trenton, N.J.

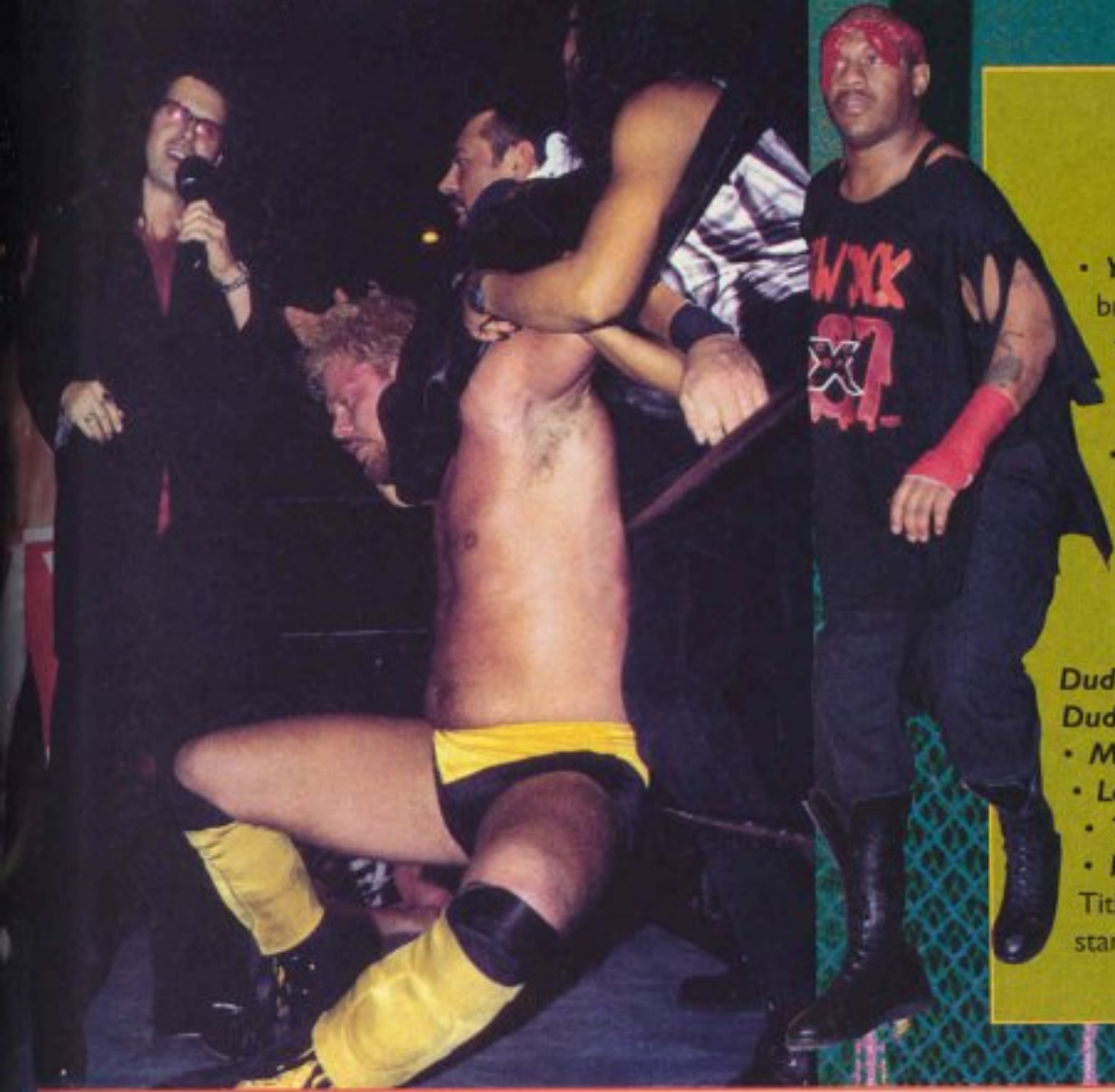
- ***Chris Chetti*** and ***Skull Von Crush*** went to a no contest when ***Danny Doring*** and ***Roadkill*** ran in to help ***Skull***. ***Taz*** came out and said that he would not let those guys beat up his cousin ***(Chetti)*** and then hit ***Chetti*** with a Tazplex.
- ***Nova*** beat ***Tracy Smothers***.
- ***Tommy Dreamer*** pinned ***Steve Corino***.
- ***Balls Mahoney*** pinned ***Rod Price***.
- ***Super Crazy*** and ***Little Guido*** beat ***Yoshihiro Tajiri*** and ***Antifaz Del Norte*** by pinfall.
- ***Jerry Lynn*** pinned ***Lance Storm***.
- ***Spike Dudley*** never had a chance against ***Mustafa*** because the ***Dudleys*** ran in attacked him.
- ***Shane Douglas*** and ***Justin Credible*** were wrestling when ***Lance Storm*** ran in. ***Cyrus the Virus*** came out and told ***Justin*** and ***Lance*** to beat up ***Francine***, but ***Tommy Dreamer*** made the save before that happened.
- ***Rob Van Dam*** and ***Sabu*** beat ***The Dudley Boyz*** to retain their ECW Tag Team Titles.

March 13, 1999
ECW Arena, Philadelphia

- ***Tajiri*** pinned ***Little Guido*** when ***Tracy Smothers'*** interference backfired. The ***FBI*** had words after the match.
- ***Super Crazy*** pinned ***Antifaz Del Norte***.
- ***Balls Mahoney*** (with ***Axl Rotten***) pinned ***Steve Corino***.
- ***Lance Storm*** (with Beulah McGillicutty) went to a 20-minute draw with ***Jerry Lynn***. ***Cyrus*** watched this match from the stage.
- ***Mustafa*** and ***Spike Dudley's*** match was again cut short when ***The Dudleys*** ran in. ***New Jack*** tried to save ***Spike***, but was beaten up as well.
- ***Nova*** and ***Chris Chetti*** went to a no contest with ***Skull Von Krush*** and ***Rod Price*** when ***Sid*** came out and beat up all four of them.
- ***Rob Van Dam*** and ***Sabu*** (with ***Bill Alfonso***) beat ***Tommy Dreamer*** and ***Shane Douglas*** (with ***Francine***) and the ***Dudleys*** in a tag three-way dance. After the match, ***Taz*** and ***Sabu*** squared off, getting ready for their showdown on the PPV the next weekend.

March 25, 1999
Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

- ***Steve Corino*** beat ***Skull Von Krush***.
- ***Balls Mahoney*** and ***Axl Rotten*** beat ***Danny Doring*** and ***Roadkill***.
- ***Justin Credible*** beat ***Little Guido*** with a caneshot.
- ***Super Crazy*** beat ***Chris Chetti*** with a moonsault.
- ***Mr. Mustafa*** and ***Spike Dudley*** fought to a no contest when ***The Dudley Boyz*** interfered after ***Spike*** had hit the Acid Drop.
- ***The Dudleys*** defeated ***Yoshihiro Tajiri*** and ***Nova*** when ***Tajiri*** fell victim to 3D.
- ***Taz*** beat ***Antifaz Del Norte*** with the Tazmission.
- ***Lance Storm*** beat ***Tommy Dreamer***.
- ***Rob Van Dam*** defended the TV title against ***Jerry Lynn***, pinning him with the split-leg moonsault.



March 27, 1999
Freeport, N.Y.

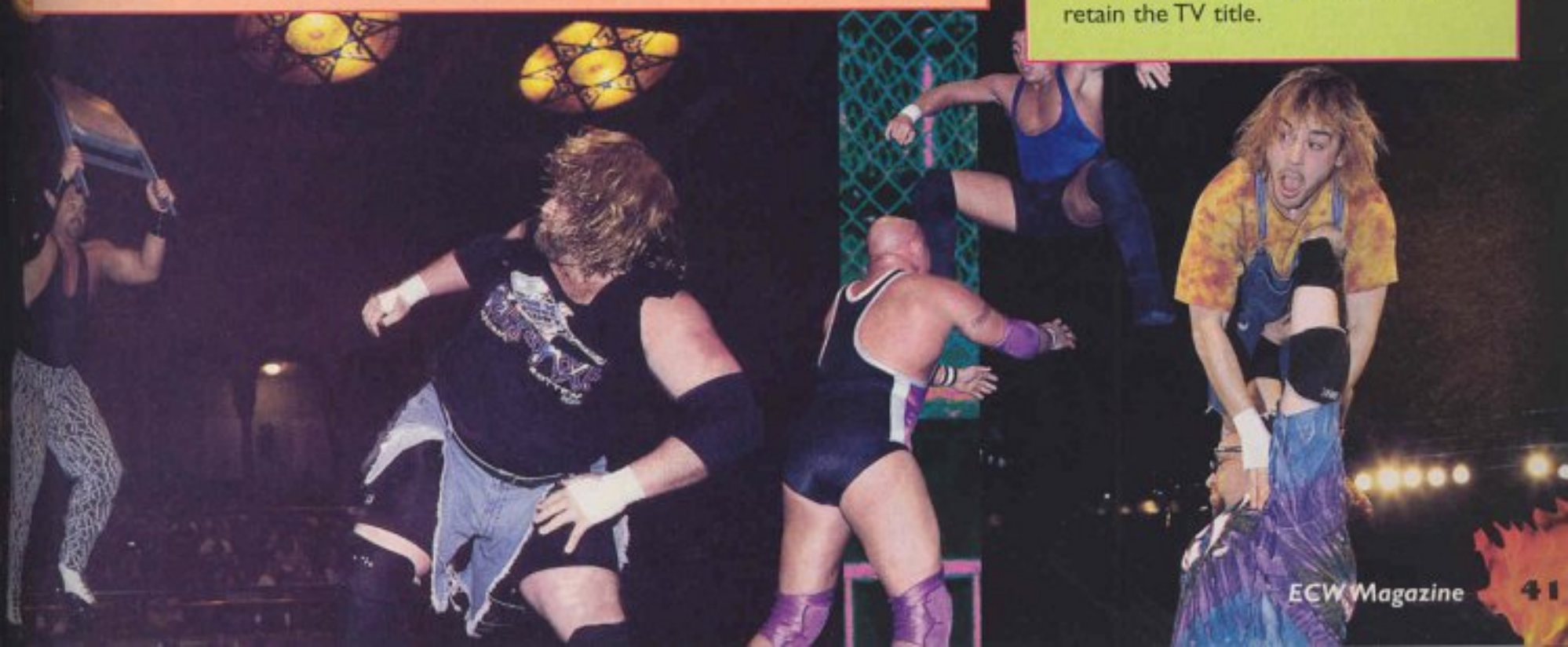
- ***Yoshihiro Tajiri*** beat ***Little Guido*** with a brainbuster.
- ***Tommy Dreamer*** (with ***Francine***) beat ***Steve Corino*** with a DDT, while ***Francine*** pinned ***Bill Wiles,*** who interfered in the match, with a spear.
- ***Spike Dudley*** won a 13-man Battle Royal for a shot at the World Title by eliminating ***Roadkill.***
- ***Justin Credible*** (with ***Jason***) beat ***Tracy Smothers*** (with ***Tommy Rich***) when ***Justin*** clothes-lined ***Smothers*** with the flagpole.
- ***The Dudleys*** (with ***Joel Gertner*** and ***Sign Guy Dudley***) defeated ***Chris Chetti*** and ***Nova*** when the ***Dudleys*** hit 3D on ***Nova.***
- ***Mr. Mustafa*** and ***Axl Rotten*** went to a no contest.
- ***Lance Storm*** beat ***Super Crazy*** with a top rope leg lariat.
- ***Taz*** defeated ***Spike Dudley*** to retain the World Title.
- ***Rob Van Dam*** beat ***Balls Mahoney*** to retain the TV Title with a top rope VanDaminator, followed by a "five-star" frog splash.

March 26, 1999 Binghamton, N.Y.

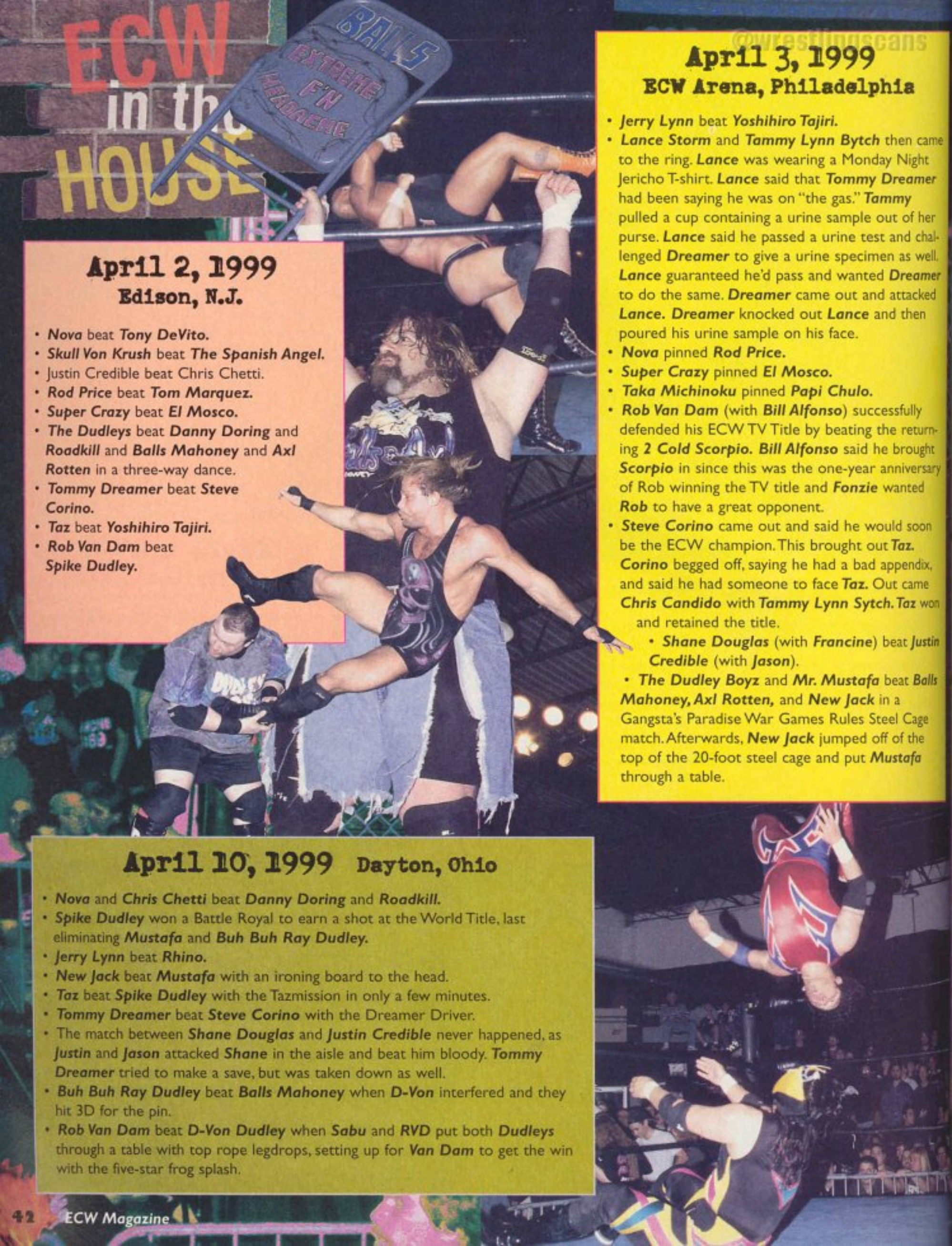
- ***Steve Corino*** beat ***Skull Von Krush.***
- ***Spike Dudley*** pinned ***Big Sal E. Graziano*** in about one minute with the Acid Drop.
- ***Super Nova*** and ***Chris Chetti*** beat ***Danny Doring*** and ***Roadkill.***
- ***Lance Storm*** pinned ***Tommy Dreamer*** when ***Justin Credible*** interfered and caned him.
- ***Jerry Lynn*** was wrestling ***Tracy Smothers*** when ***Rob Van Dam*** came out and challenged Lynn to a match, which he accepted. RVD gave ***Smothers*** a Van Daminator, and ***Little Guido*** came out and brawled with ***Tracy*** to the back.
- ***Rob Van Dam*** beat ***Jerry Lynn*** after ***Sabu*** came in and hit an Arabian facebuster on Lynn.
- ***Yoshihiro Tajiri*** beat ***Super Crazy*** with a dragon suplex.
- ***The Dudleys*** and ***Mr. Mustafa*** beat ***Balls Mahoney, Axl Rotten*** and ***New Jack*** in a bloody "Gangsta's Paradise" cage match when ***Balls*** was hit with 3D.

April 1, 1999
Allentown, Pa.

- ***Nova*** and ***Chris Chetti*** beat ***Skull Von Krush*** and ***Rod Price.***
- ***Justin Credible*** beat ***Yoshihiro Tajiri.***
- ***Super Crazy*** beat ***El Mosco del la Merced.***
- ***The Dudley Boyz*** defeated ***Balls Mahoney*** and ***Axl Rotten*** and ***Danny Doring*** and ***Roadkill*** in a three-way dance.
- ***Tommy Dreamer*** beat ***Steve Corino.***
- ***Taz*** beat ***Spike Dudley*** to retain both titles.
- ***Rob Van Dam*** beat ***Lance Storm*** to retain the TV title.



ECW in the HOUSE



@wrestlingscans

April 2, 1999
Edison, N.J.

- ***Nova*** beat ***Tony DeVito.***
- ***Skull Von Krush*** beat ***The Spanish Angel.***
- Justin Credible beat Chris Chetti.
- ***Rod Price*** beat ***Tom Marquez.***
- ***Super Crazy*** beat ***El Mosco.***
- ***The Dudleys*** beat ***Danny Doring*** and ***Roadkill*** and ***Balls Mahoney*** and ***Axl Rotten*** in a three-way dance.
- ***Tommy Dreamer*** beat ***Steve Corino.***
- ***Taz*** beat ***Yoshihiro Tajiri.***
- ***Rob Van Dam*** beat ***Spike Dudley.***

April 3, 1999
ECW Arena, Philadelphia

- ***Jerry Lynn*** beat ***Yoshihiro Tajiri.***
- ***Lance Storm*** and ***Tammy Lynn Bytch*** then came to the ring. ***Lance*** was wearing a Monday Night Jericho T-shirt. ***Lance*** said that ***Tommy Dreamer*** had been saying he was on "the gas." ***Tammy*** pulled a cup containing a urine sample out of her purse. ***Lance*** said he passed a urine test and challenged ***Dreamer*** to give a urine specimen as well. ***Lance*** guaranteed he'd pass and wanted ***Dreamer*** to do the same. ***Dreamer*** came out and attacked ***Lance. Dreamer*** knocked out ***Lance*** and then poured his urine sample on his face.
- ***Nova*** pinned ***Rod Price.***
- ***Super Crazy*** pinned ***El Mosco.***
- ***Taka Michinoku*** pinned ***Papi Chulo.***
- ***Rob Van Dam*** (with ***Bill Alfonso***) successfully defended his ECW TV Title by beating the returning ***2 Cold Scorpio. Bill Alfonso*** said he brought ***Scorpio*** in since this was the one-year anniversary of Rob winning the TV title and ***Fonzie*** wanted ***Rob*** to have a great opponent.
- ***Steve Corino*** came out and said he would soon be the ECW champion. This brought out ***Taz. Corino*** begged off, saying he had a bad appendix, and said he had someone to face ***Taz.*** Out came ***Chris Candido*** with ***Tammy Lynn Sytch. Taz*** won and retained the title.
- ***Shane Douglas*** (with ***Francine***) beat ***Justin Credible*** (with ***Jason***).
- ***The Dudley Boyz*** and ***Mr. Mustafa*** beat ***Balls Mahoney, Axl Rotten,*** and ***New Jack*** in a Gangsta's Paradise War Games Rules Steel Cage match. Afterwards, ***New Jack*** jumped off of the top of the 20-foot steel cage and put ***Mustafa*** through a table.

April 10, 1999 Dayton, Ohio

- ***Nova*** and ***Chris Chetti*** beat ***Danny Doring*** and ***Roadkill.***
- ***Spike Dudley*** won a Battle Royal to earn a shot at the World Title, last eliminating ***Mustafa*** and ***Buh Buh Ray Dudley.***
- ***Jerry Lynn*** beat ***Rhino.***
- ***New Jack*** beat ***Mustafa*** with an ironing board to the head.
- ***Taz*** beat ***Spike Dudley*** with the Tazmission in only a few minutes.
- ***Tommy Dreamer*** beat ***Steve Corino*** with the Dreamer Driver.
- The match between ***Shane Douglas*** and ***Justin Credible*** never happened, as ***Justin*** and ***Jason*** attacked ***Shane*** in the aisle and beat him bloody. ***Tommy Dreamer*** tried to make a save, but was taken down as well.
- ***Buh Buh Ray Dudley*** beat ***Balls Mahoney*** when ***D-Von*** interfered and they hit 3D for the pin.
- ***Rob Van Dam*** beat ***D-Von Dudley*** when ***Sabu*** and ***RVD*** put both ***Dudleys*** through a table with top rope legdrops, setting up for ***Van Dam*** to get the win with the five-star frog splash.

@wrestlingscans

April 15, 1999
Pittsburgh, Pa.

- ***Chris Chetti*** beat ***Danny Doring*** with his double springboard moonsault.
- ***Skull Von Krush*** beat ***Steve Corino***, but ***Bill Wiles*** said ***Corino's*** foot was on the ropes, restarted the match, and became the ref for ***Corino*** to win.
- ***Spike Dudley*** and ***Nova*** beat ***Big Sal E. Graziano*** and ***Little Guido.***
- ***Super Crazy*** beat ***Yoshihiro Tajiri*** with his rolling surfboard into a dragon sleeper.
- ***The Dudleys*** beat ***Balls Mahoney*** and ***Axl Rotten*** with 3D on Balls.
- ***Tommy Dreamer*** (with ***Francine***) beat ***Lance Storm*** (with "Beulah") after a Spicoli Driver through a table.
- ***Shane Douglas*** beat ***Justin Credible*** with the Pittsburgh Plunge.
- ***Rob Van Dam*** beat ***Jerry Lynn*** with the five-star frog splash to retain the TV title.

April 16, 1999
Cleveland, Ohio

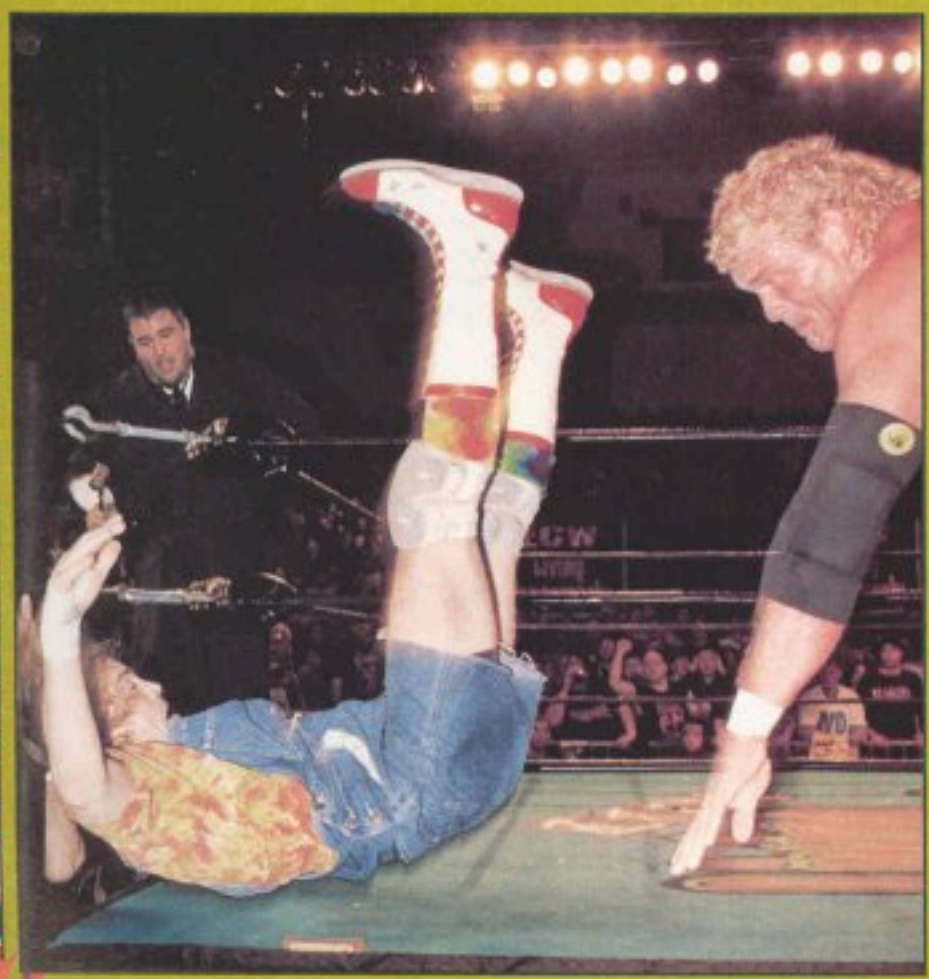
- ***Yoshihiro Tajiri*** beat ***Little Guido*** with a corkscrew suplex.
- ***Skull Von Krush*** and ***Danny Doring*** vs. ***Nova*** and ***Chris Chetti*** was a no contest when ***Taz*** took out all four men. ***Justin Credible*** and ***Lance Storm*** beat ***Jerry Lynn*** and ***Super Crazy*** when ***Jason*** interfered, allowing ***Justin*** to hit That's Incredible on a chair on ***Crazy*** for the win.
- ***New Jack*** beat ***Mustafa*** in a bloody Gangsta Death Match with the 187 flying chair.
- ***Tommy Dreamer*** (with ***Francine***) beat ***Steve Corino*** with a DDT.
- ***The Dudleys*** beat ***Rhino*** and ***Balls Mahoney*** (with ***Axl Rotten***) with 3D.
- ***Rob Van Dam*** beat ***Spike Dudley*** with a Van Daminator followed by the

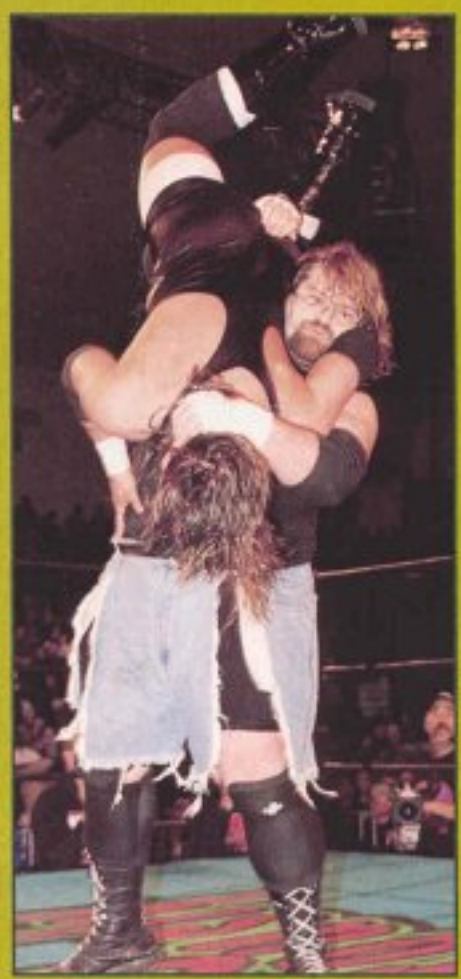
April 17, 1999
Buffalo, N.Y.

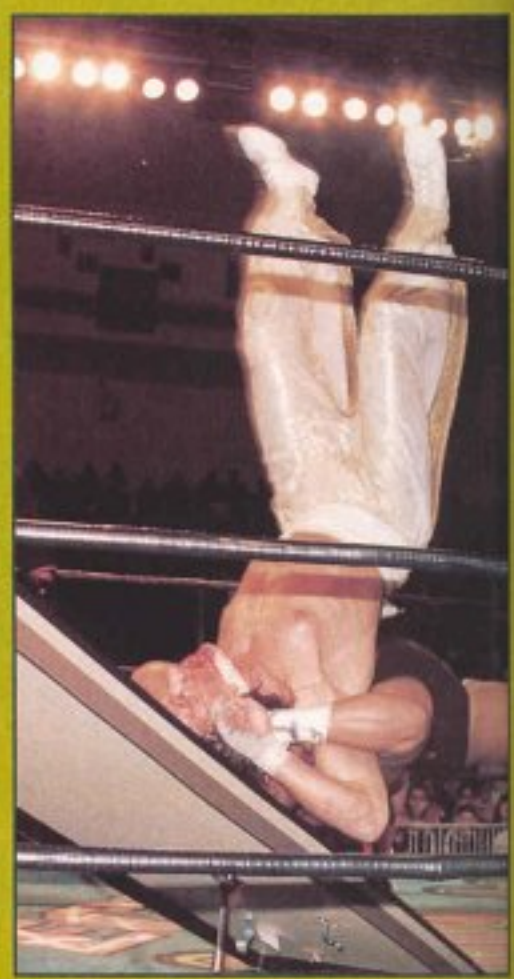
- ***Balls Mahoney*** and ***Axl Rotten*** beat ***The FBI*** (***Guido*** and ***Big Sal***).
- ***Taz*** came out and broke up the tag match of ***Nova*** and ***Chris Chetti*** vs. ***Skull Von Krush*** and ***"Dastardly" Danny Doring*** when he came out and dumped them all on their heads.
- ***Taz*** choked out ***"Little" Spike Dudley*** to retain the World title.
- While ***Tommy Dreamer*** and ***Francine*** were doing an interview, ***Justin Credible*** and ***Lance Storm*** came out and attacked them. ***Shane Douglas*** was on crutches due to a fractured ankle, so he could not make the save. ***Super Crazy*** and ***Jerry Lynn*** did make the save.
- ***Super Crazy*** and ***Jerry Lynn*** beat ***Justin Credible*** and ***Lance Storm*** when ***Lynn*** pinned ***Credible*** with a roll-up.
- ***The Dudley Boyz*** beat ***Rob Van Dam*** to win the ECW Tag Titles. ***Bubba*** had a cut finger, and ***Sabu*** was being held in the back, so ***D-Von*** wrestled RVD and ***Justin Credible*** and ***Lance Storm*** helped ***Bubba*** and ***D-Von*** to beat ***RVD*** to win the title for the sixth time. ***Sabu*** broke free from the back, but got laid out as well.
- ***Yoshihiro Tajiri*** beat ***Rhino Richards.***
- ***Tommy Dreamer*** pinned ***Steve Corino.***
- In a Gangsta Death Match to end the evening, ***New Jack*** pinned ***Mr. Mustafa*** in 4:15. **ecw**

ECW Calendar of Events ... visit www.ecwwrestling.com for updates!

Friday	June 4	NW Georgia Convention Center	Dalton, Ga.
Saturday	June 5	Albany Civic Center	Albany, Ga.
Sunday	June 6	Georgia Mountain Center	Gainesville, Ga.
Thursday	June 17	The Odeum	Chicago
Friday	June 18	Expo Center	South Bend, Ind.
Saturday	June 19	Tyndall Auditorium	Indianapolis
Thursday	June 24	The Armory	Hartford, Conn.
Friday	June 25	Shrine Temple	Trenton, N.J.
Saturday	June 26	ECW Arena	Philadelphia
Sunday	July 4	Bar "A"	Belmar, N.J.
Thursday	July 8	War Memorial	Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.
Friday	July 9	Lee County Civic Center	Ft. Meyers, Fla.
Saturday	July 10	Expo Park	Tampa, Fla.
Sunday	July 18	Pay-Per-View	TBA
Thursday	July 22	TBA	Thibodaux, La.
Friday	July 23	TBA	St. Bernard or Alario, La.
Saturday	July 24	TBA	Alexandria, La.
Sunday	July 25	TBA	Baton Rouge, La.
Saturday	July 31	ECW Arena	Philadelphia

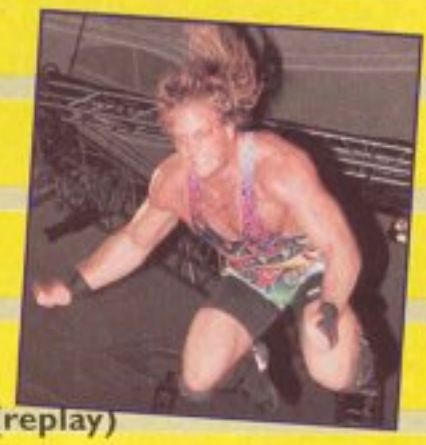


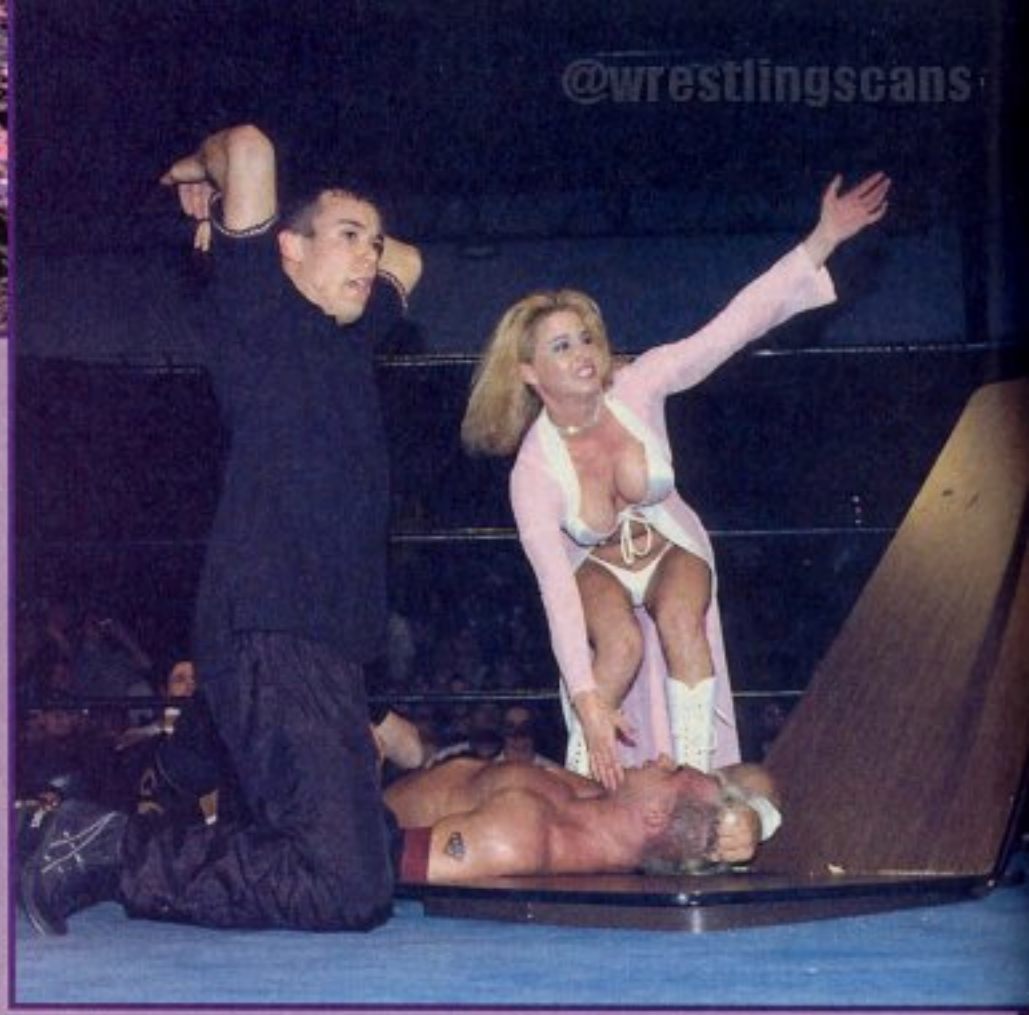




National Weekly Television Listings

America One Network	Check Local Listings	Saturday	12:00 AM Eastern
USSB Satellite	Channel 905	Saturday	11:00 PM Eastern
USSB Satellite	Channel 905	Sunday	6:00 PM Eastern
USSB Satellite	Channel 905	Thursday	7:00 PM Eastern
Albany, Ga.	WRKL-TV 35	Saturday	9:00 PM Eastern
Atlantic City/Wildwood, N.J.	WWAC-TV 53	Saturday	9:00 PM Eastern
Baton Rouge, La.	WGMB-TV / Fox 44	Friday	12:30 AM Central
Baton Rouge, La.	WGMB-TV / Fox 44	Wednesday	4:00 AM Central
Burlington/Plattsburgh, N.Y.	WBVT-TV 39	Saturday	1:00 AM Eastern
Carbondale, Ill.	SPC-TV	Friday	10:00 PM Central
Carbondale, Ill.	SPC-TV	Tuesday	7:00 PM Central
Chicago	WCIU 26	Saturday	3:00 AM Central
Cincinnati	W25 AI	Monday	10:00 PM Eastern
Columbus, Ga.	UA16	Saturday	7:00 PM Eastern
Columbus, Ga.	UA16	Wednesday (replay)	10:00 PM Eastern
Columbus, Ohio	WLWG-TV 62	Thursday	9:00 PM Eastern
Dayton, Ohio	WUCT-TV 51	Saturday	7:00 PM Eastern
Dayton, Ohio	WUCT-TV 51	Sunday (replay)	12:00 PM Eastern
Detroit	WADL-TV 38	Thursday	11:00 PM Central
Florida	Sunshine Network	Friday	2:00 AM Eastern
Fresno, Calif.	KGMC-TV 43	Friday	11:00 PM Pacific
Hampton, Va.	WPEN-TV	Saturday	7:00 PM Eastern
Indianapolis	WAV-TV 53	Sunday	5:00 PM Eastern
Indianapolis	WAV-TV 53	Tuesday	10:00 PM Eastern
Las Vegas, Nev.	KCNG-TV/UPN25	Saturday	1:00 PM Pacific
Long Island, N.Y.	WVVH-TV 10	Saturday	10:00 PM Eastern
Louisville, Ky.	WBNA-TV 21	Friday	1:00 AM Eastern
Memphis, Tenn.	WBII-TV 20	Saturday	10:30 PM Central
Miami Beach, Fla.	WAMI	Saturday	11:00 PM Eastern
Montgomery/Selma, Ala.	WAXC-TV 64	Monday	10:30 PM Central
Murray, Ky.	WQTV-TV 46	Saturday	11:00 PM Eastern
New Jersey	CTN	Saturday	4:00 PM Eastern
New York City	Madison Square Garden	Saturday	1:00 AM Eastern
Orlando, Fla.	WRBW-TV / UPN 65	Friday	1:00 AM Eastern
Philadelphia	WGTW-TV 48	Friday	10:00 PM Eastern
Philadelphia	WGTW-TV 48	Saturday (replay)	9:00 PM Eastern
Pittsburgh	WBGN	Saturday	10:30 AM Eastern
Pittsburgh	WBGN	Saturday (replay)	11:30 PM Eastern
Twin Falls, Idaho	KKHM-TV 55	Saturday	11:00 AM Mountain
Washington D.C.	Media General Cable Ch.51	Tuesday	6:00 PM Eastern
Youngstown, Ohio	WFYZ	Saturday	2:00 AM Eastern





CHRIS CANDIDO RETURNS, RE-INJURED?

Chris Candido, a former member of Shane Douglas' Triple Threat, returned to ECW action at Cyberslam 1999, televised on April 9. There had been many unanswered questions regarding the whereabouts of Candido and his fiancee/valet, Tammy Lynn Sytch, in the previous two months, as speculation mounted regarding his physical condition. He had been last seen feuding with Douglas, whom he turned his back on at Guilty As Charged in January.

His return to the ECW ring saw him take on Taz for the World Heavyweight Championship, when Steve Corino slyly begged out of the opportunity after mouthing off in front of the "Human Suplex Machine." The Falls Count-Anywhere encounter was one of the best opportunities Candido has earned in his career, and the former WWF and ECW World Tag Team Champion made his best attempt at winning his first world title.

However, despite his best efforts, Candido fell short of the mark after being driven through a table with the Tazmission-Plex. The match was stopped and awarded to Taz by referee John "Pee Wee" Moore when it was obvious that Candido was not getting up, or even moving! While Candido was being removed from the ring on a stretcher, Taz, the merciless champion, again pursued his prey, dumping Candido on the concrete and locking him in the most dangerous submission hold in wrestling today, the "Tazmission." During the time he had the hold on, Candido may have suffered untold damage to his neck, as if being dumped on his head earlier in the bout wasn't enough. Remember that he was sidelined from the WWF in 1996 with a serious neck injury, and a further re-aggravation of that injury could threaten his career.

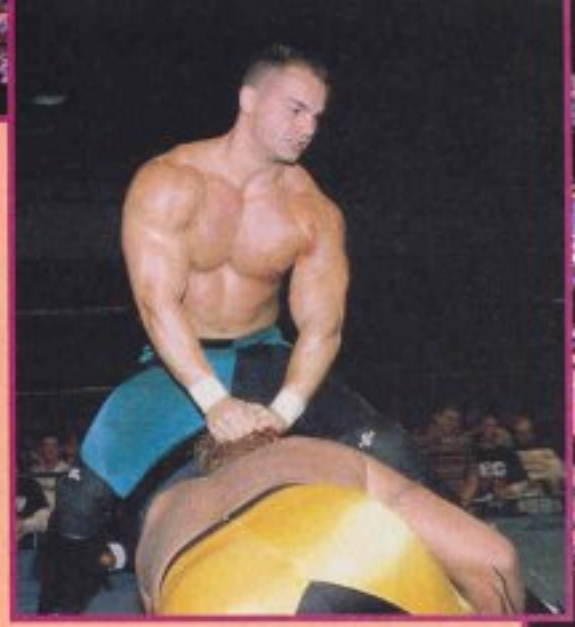
At press time, it was unclear what the ramifications of Candido's not-so-successful return to ECW would have on his career, but it's likely Candido will have made a public announcement regarding the situation by the time you read this. ecw

ROB VAN DAM CELEBRATES YEAR ON TOP

ECW World TV Champion Rob Van Dam recently celebrated the one-year anniversary of his victory over Bam Bam Bigelow for the belt on April 4, 1998. Since then, Van Dam has had unparalleled success in the squared circle, not only defending the World TV title against top competition, but also winning the tag team title with Sabu. At press time, Sabu had been benched by manager Bill Alfonso until his surgeries to fix a fractured jaw were complete. ecw

NEWS & RUMORS

BIG EGO, SMALL PROBLEM



Ever since teaming up with Justin Credible, Lance Storm's ego has been running wild. He's proclaimed himself the "New Franchise," (which is what Justin Credible claims to be as well) and is currently embroiled in a major feud with Douglas' partner, Tommy Dreamer.

"I never really had a problem with Lance," Dreamer said. "He was quiet and kept to himself in the back. I don't know where this whole thing came from, the ego. Like a lot of guys, he's trying to take the easy way, take a quick route to the top. Unfortunately for him, he's run in to Tommy Dreamer, and it's going to be a problem for him. A big problem. A big painful bloody problem."

Dreamer and Douglas recently defeated Credible and Storm at the Living Dangerously pay-per-view in March. But that didn't take the wind out of the losers' sails. The confrontation between Storm and Dreamer has escalated to the level where Dreamer recently threw Storm's own urine in his face after Storm submitted the specimen to prove he was steroid free.

"He has really pissed me off," Dreamer said. "But I suppose that's not as bad as being pissed on. All kidding aside, I'm going to hurt him bad before this is through."

For more on this growing rivalry, don't miss the cover story on Lance Storm and Tammy Lynn Bytch in this issue of ECW Magazine. ecw

NOVA BACK IN TAG TEAM RANKS

ECW veteran Nova has returned to the tag team ranks after his long-standing team with the Blue Meanie dissolved due to Meanie's departure to the WWF eight months ago. His new partner is Chris Chetti, the first graduate from the House of Hardcore and a fellow innovator of wrestling offense. The two young stars are hoping to make their mark on the ECW tag ranks, and ultimately win tag team gold, something that eluded Nova and Meanie.

"They're great in different ways," Nova said of Blue Meanie and Chetti. "Meanie is my best friend, and it took us a long time to get that timing together, but I think that in time, Chris and I can make it work."

The new team is off to a great start, having defeated Danny Doring and Amish Roadkill at Living Dangerously, finishing them off with a trademark, original, double-team maneuver: a top-rope leg drop/splash combination that is unparalleled by any other finish in tag team wrestling today. Will Nova and Chetti continue to build momentum? Stay tuned. ecw

ECW SLAMS INTO NEW VENUES

As ECW grows in popularity, more and more American cities are getting a taste of extreme wrestling.

In June and July, ECW fans in Illinois, Indiana and Connecticut will get their first up-close-and-personal tastes of the league. Drawing on its increased popularity and fan requests, ECW will make its first appearance in Chicago at the Odeum in suburban Villa Park on June 17. Following this will be a visit to South Bend, Ind.'s Expo Center on June 18 and Hartford, Conn.'s Armory on June 24. ECW is growing fast – and may soon be coming to a city near you! ecw

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Imagine what it must be like to be Sabu's opponent.

Imagine what it must be like to be Sabu's physician.

Imagine what it must be like to be Sabu.

Imagine

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It's All About Survival.

When you're Sabu, pain and perseverance come with the territory.

By Matt Hunter

@wrestlingscan

Imagine what it must be like to be Sabu's opponent. To enter the ring full of energy and hope, veins flowing with adrenaline, determined to make a strong showing.

You hear the cheers for Sabu as you try to keep your mental momentum going strong. You feel the rush of wind across your body as Sabu whips you from one side of the ring to the other, then suddenly a crunch of flesh against bone as he hurls his body into yours, sending you collapsing to the mat.

You gasp for air, but to no avail. Sabu has already climbed to the top turnbuckle. You're disoriented. Down is up, up is down. Your body can't respond to your brain's commands to *move, dammit, move!*

Sabu may weigh only 220 pounds, but you feel every ounce of that weight -- the impact compounded by the acceleration of a swiftly executed moonsault -- as his body slams into yours. It feels like your body is going to burst through the very canvas of the ring to the floor below!

No chance. Because you're rising now. Not of your own volition, of course. Sabu is dragging you limply to your feet and depositing you on the table he's positioned in a precariously dangerous position: one end resting on the ring apron, the other end resting on the ring barrier just inches away from the front row of fans.

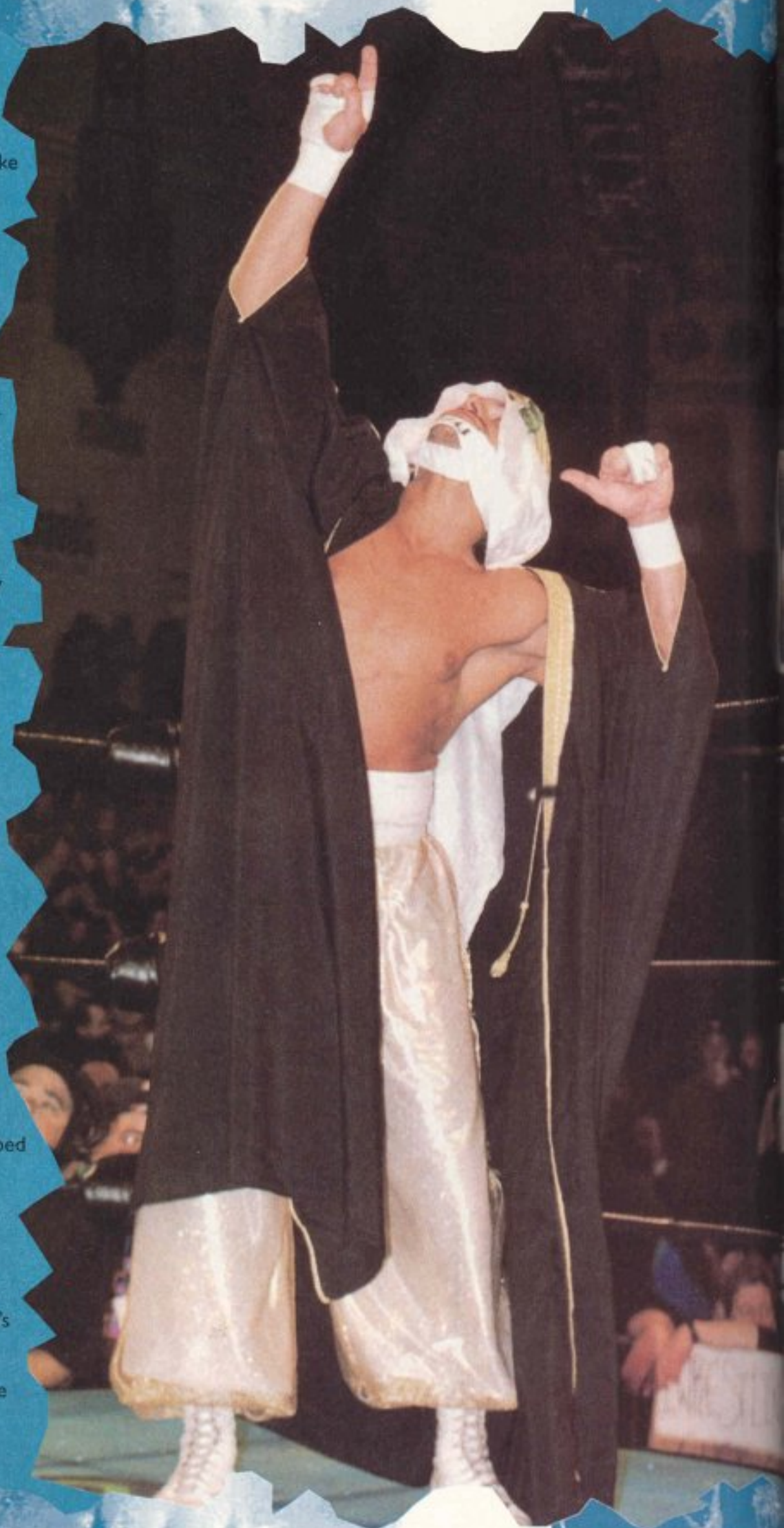
Move, dammit, move!

No chance. It's too late. Your mind is screaming the commands, but your body is too busy to listen, too busy trying to deal with the punishment you've absorbed in the match up to this point.

Punishment that's just beginning.

You manage to twitch a bit, but actual movement is impossible. Time is meaningless. Have you been laying on this table for three seconds? Three minutes? There's no way for your brain to process the information.

You don't see Sabu position the chair in the ring. The



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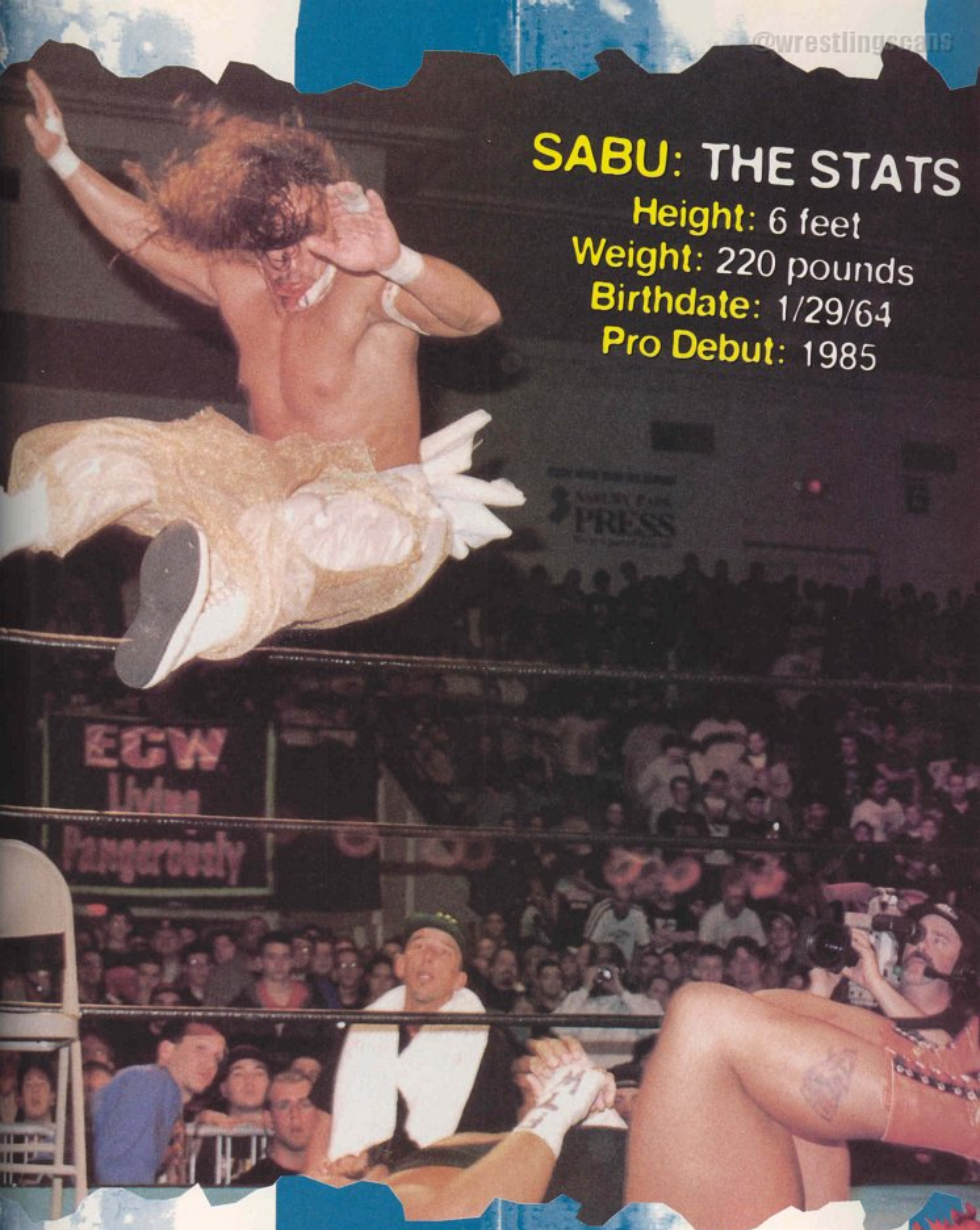

SABU: THE STATS

Height: 6 feet
Weight: 220 pounds
Birthdate: 1/29/64
Pro Debut: 1985

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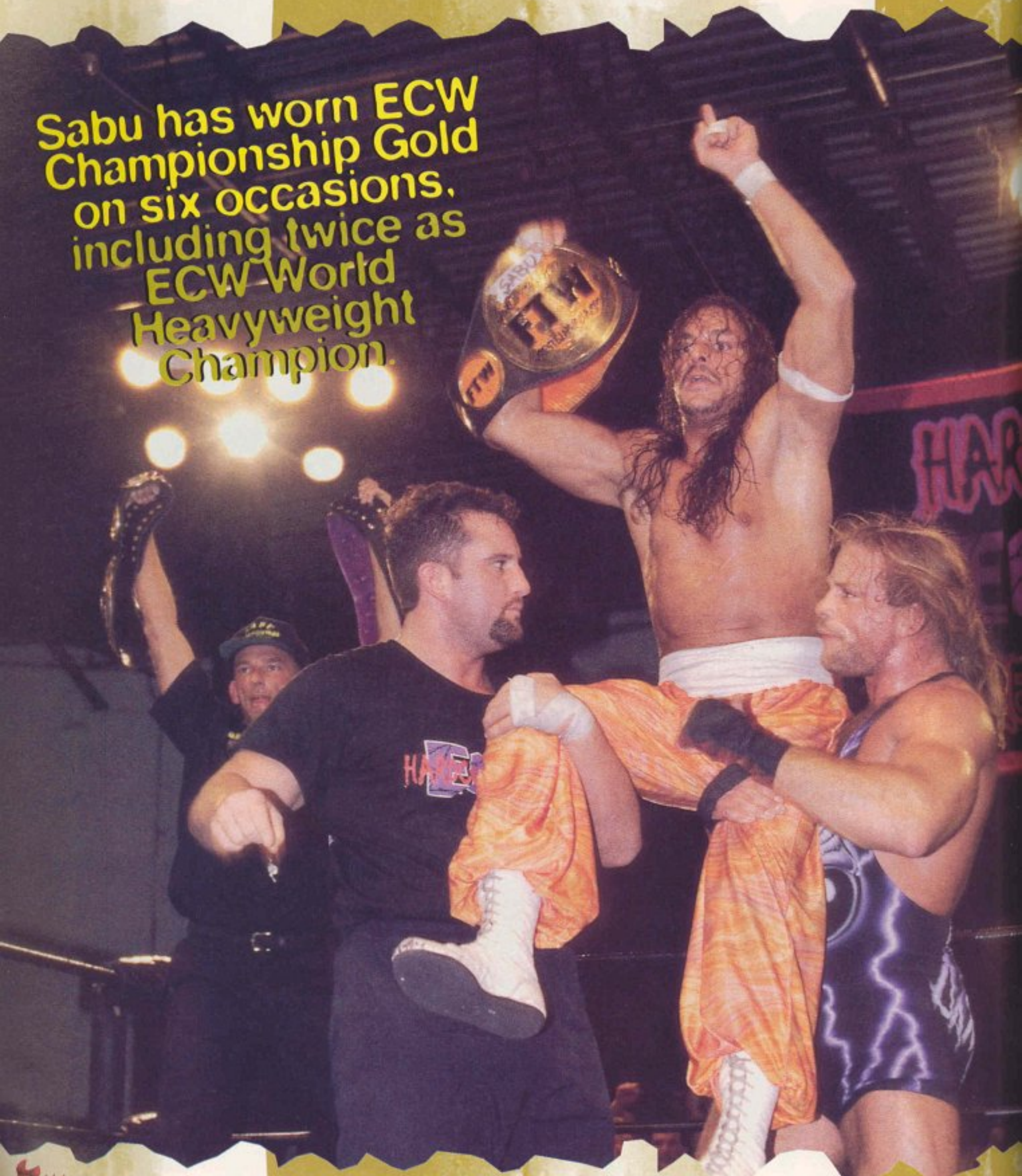

Sabu has worn ECW Championship Gold on six occasions, including twice as ECW World Heavyweight Champion.

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cheers of the fans in the ECW Arena are so loud, you can't hear Sabu run to the opposite side of the ring, rebound off the ropes, jump onto the chair, and launch his body into the air.

You see a blur of motion; it's Sabu's body completing the somersault.

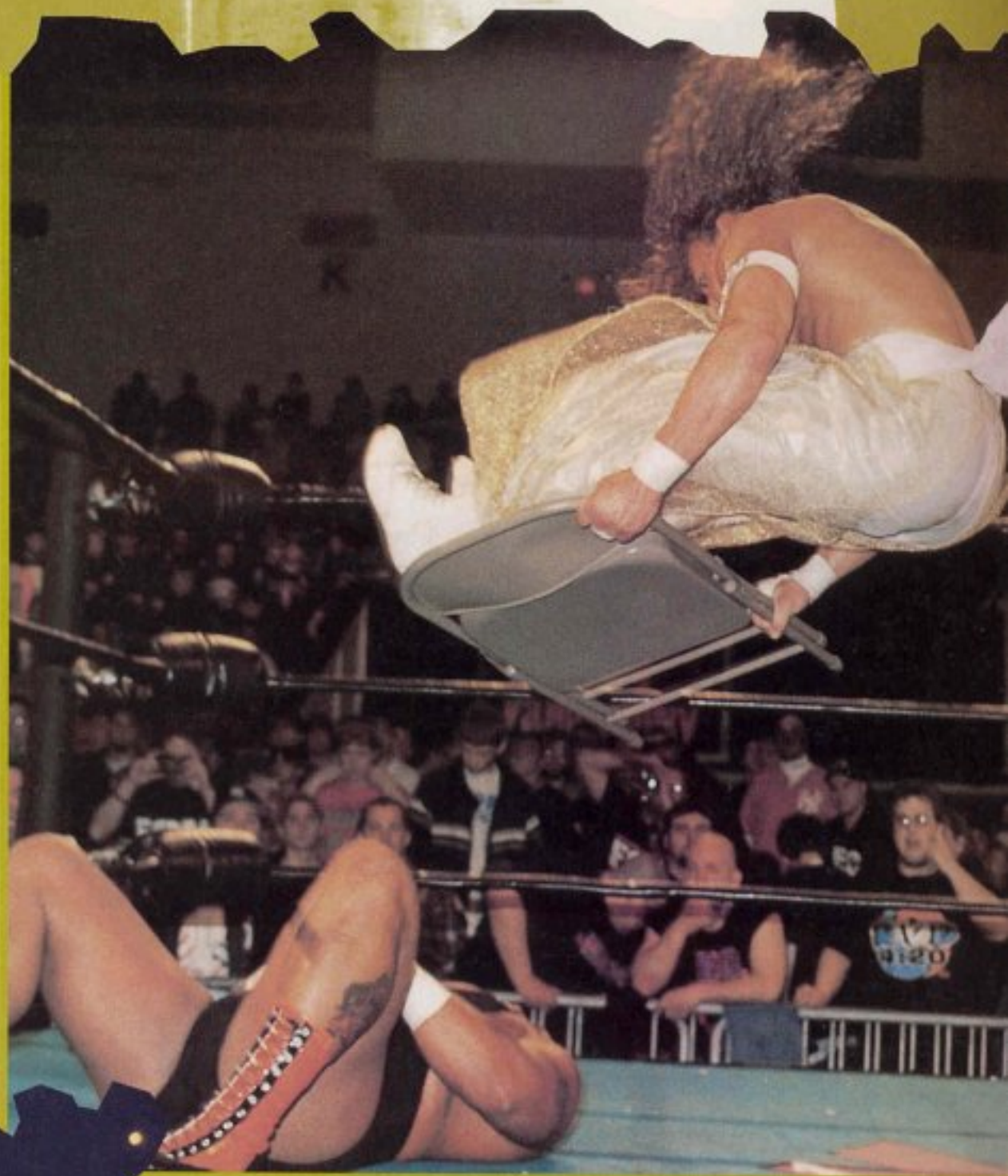
Suddenly, you feel as if someone has dropped a 1,000-pound weight across your chest. The table you're on disappears beneath your back, and your body is sandwiched by pain. Sabu is coming at you from one side, the concrete floor slamming into you from the other.

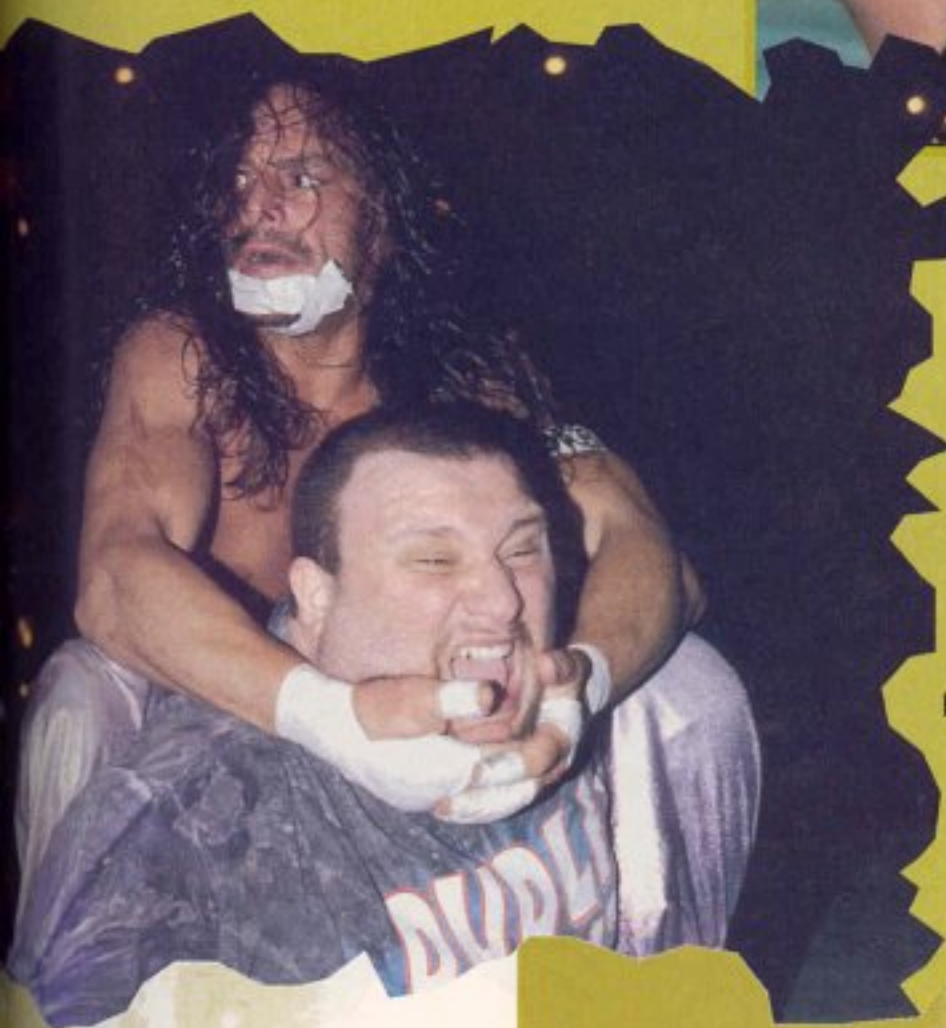
In the midst of the chaos, you hear a sickening symphony of crunching wood and twisted metal. (Was that a chorus of broken bones in there, too?)

All you want to do is go home.

But first, the medics need to carry you back to the dressing room on a stretcher.

And all you can do is imagine that your worst nightmare has come to pass.





Imagine what it must be like to be Sabu's physician. You examine your patient, and you feel like an auto mechanic at a demolition derby. All your medical instincts cringe at the images you see on the X-rays.

You see a cracked rib, so you do what you can to tape up Sabu's chest.

You see hairline fractures, so you do what you can to tape up Sabu's arms, legs, hands, or feet.

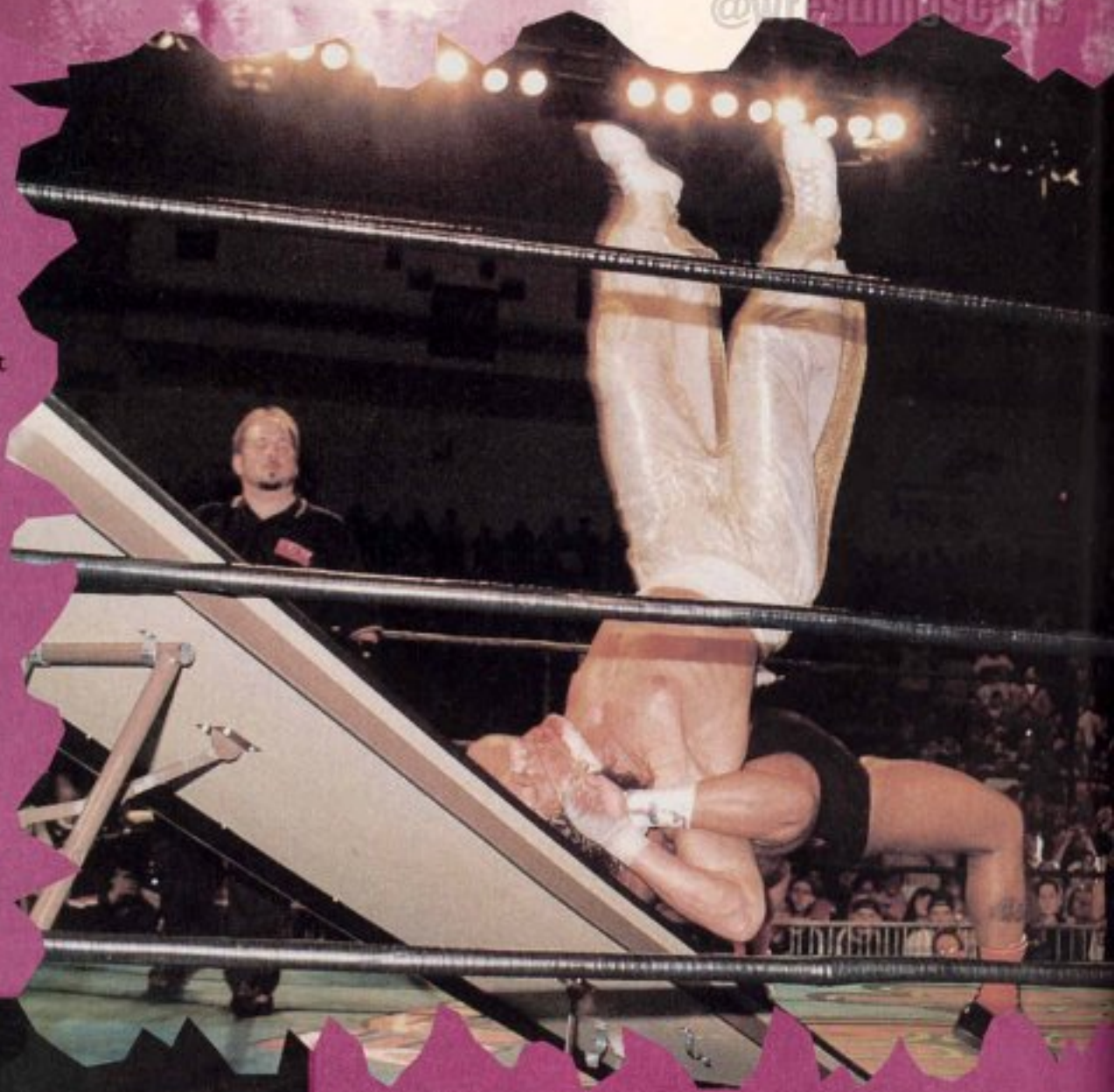
Sometimes you have the benefit of an interpreter, sometimes you use hand signals, sometimes you communicate by writing a note and hoping someone will translate for you. Always the message is the same: Go home and heal. Take some time off. The human body is not designed to absorb this kind of inhuman abuse.

You do what you can and, as you watch Sabu walk away, you know that the message will go unheeded. Because Sabu listens only to the messages that speak to him from deep within a twisted consciousness shaped by

years of wrestling in the most suicidal style known to man.

You go home and you know that later that evening, Sabu will be wrestling. You know that he will not relax his ring style any. In fact, it's likely that the pain from the injuries will drive him to new heights of maniacal intensity. You fear that if he crashes into an opponent or through a table (or two or three) the wrong way (where Sabu is concerned, is there a right way?!), that the hairline fracture will become a full-fledged break, that the cracked rib will puncture a lung.

So when Sabu's match comes on the television, you don't pay any attention. You feel helpless as you imagine what might be happening, and you hope for the best.



Imagine what it must be like to be Sabu. You live for those moments of carnage in the ring, for the cheers of "ECW! ECW! ECW!" from the fans. You live for hurling your body through the air, somersaulting out of the ring and crashing into an opponent on the arena floor. You live for reducing a banquet room full of tables to shards of kindling wood.

Those are the moments during which you feel most alive, when all the blood is flowing, when all the senses are operating at maximum power. You are not just Lord of the Hardcores, you are King of the World and Master of the Universe. You are immortal!

But there are the other moments.

There is the moment when you first wake up in the morning, when your body screams like your fallen opponent the night before, when just sitting upright is asking your body to do the impossible.

There is the moment when you think about wrestling with

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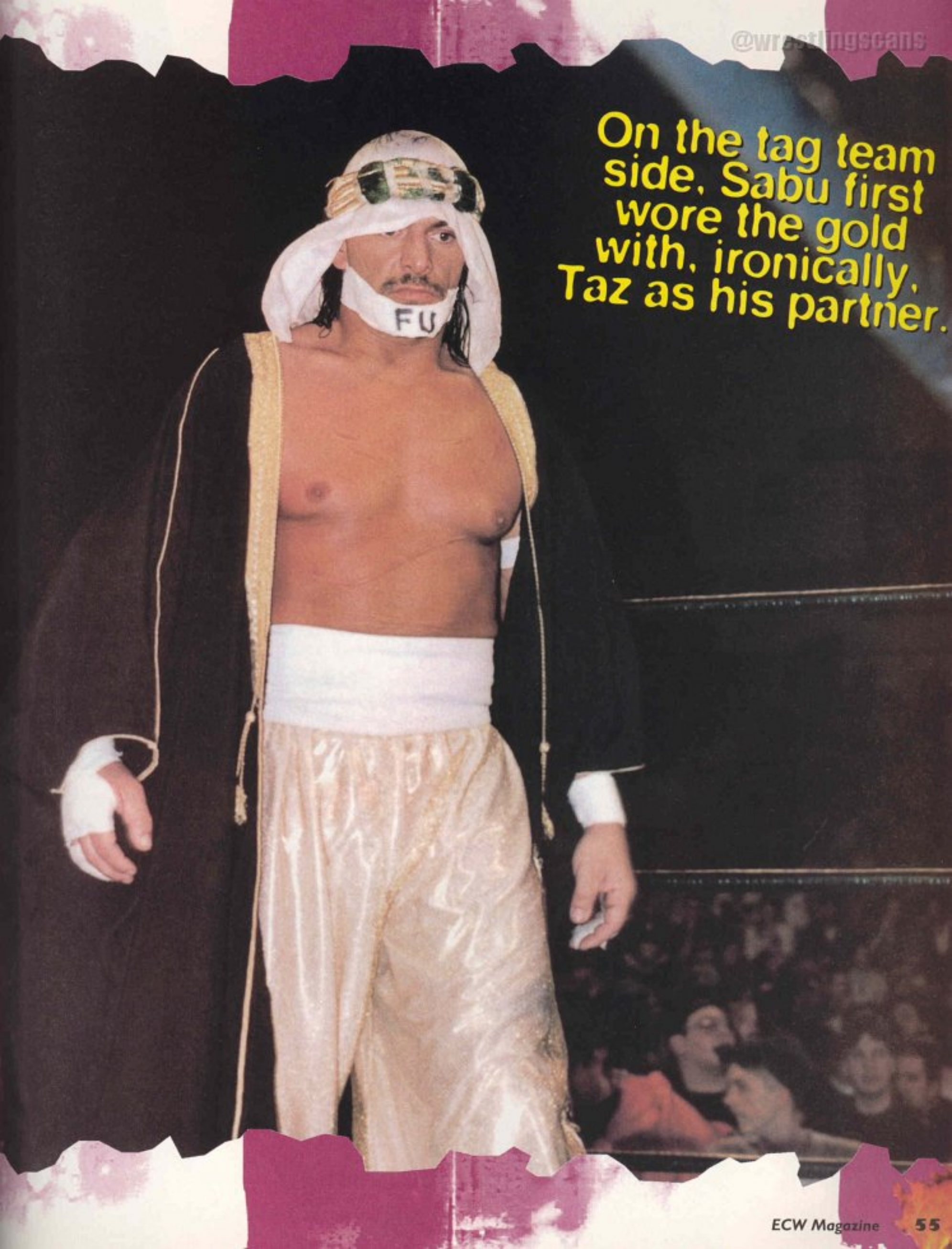
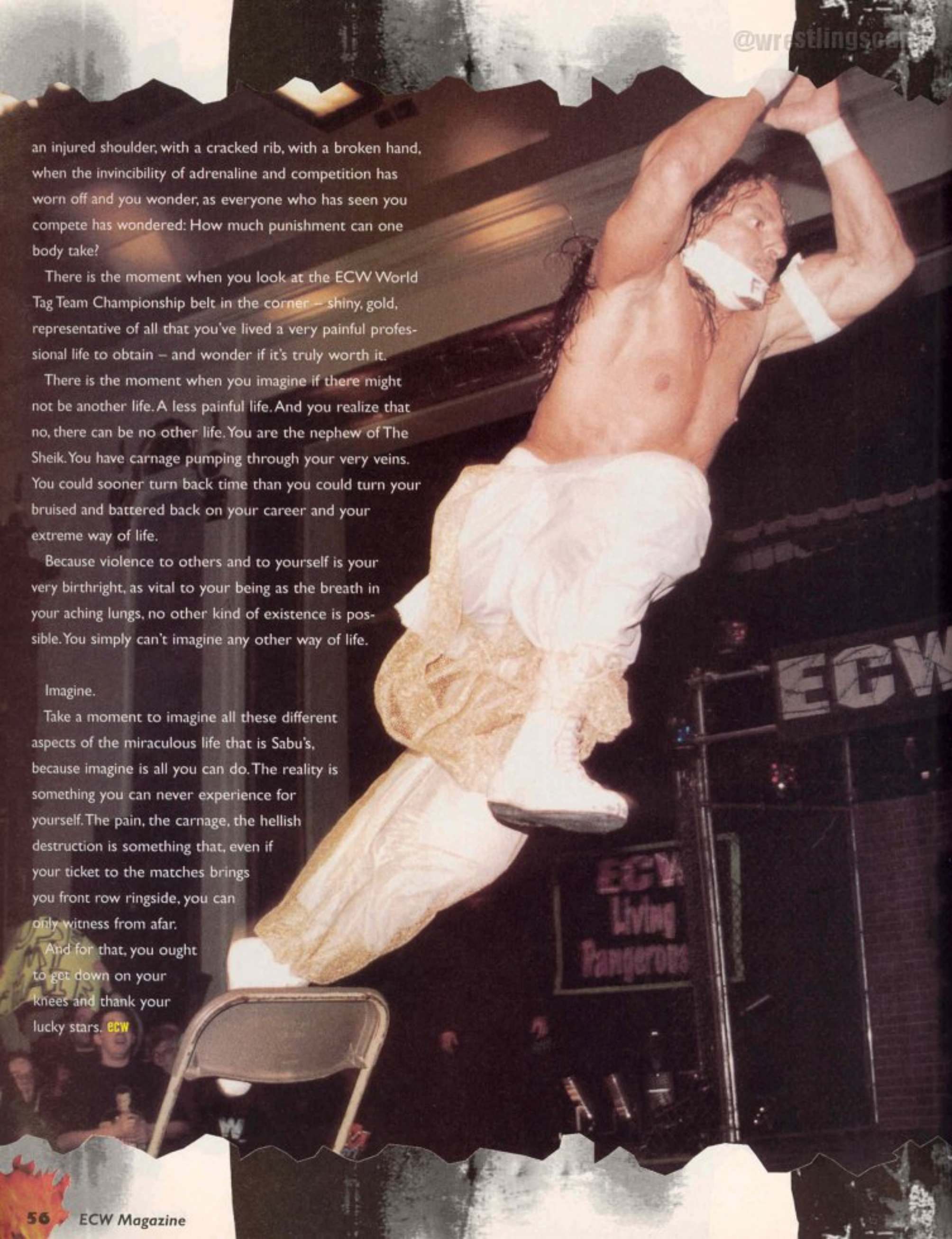


On the tag team side, Sabu first wore the gold with, ironically, Taz as his partner.



an injured shoulder, with a cracked rib, with a broken hand, when the invincibility of adrenaline and competition has worn off and you wonder, as everyone who has seen you compete has wondered: How much punishment can one body take?

There is the moment when you look at the ECW World Tag Team Championship belt in the corner – shiny, gold, representative of all that you've lived a very painful professional life to obtain – and wonder if it's truly worth it.

There is the moment when you imagine if there might not be another life. A less painful life. And you realize that no, there can be no other life. You are the nephew of The Sheik. You have carnage pumping through your very veins. You could sooner turn back time than you could turn your bruised and battered back on your career and your extreme way of life.

Because violence to others and to yourself is your very birthright, as vital to your being as the breath in your aching lungs, no other kind of existence is possible. You simply can't imagine any other way of life.

Imagine.

Take a moment to imagine all these different aspects of the miraculous life that is Sabu's, because imagine is all you can do. The reality is something you can never experience for yourself. The pain, the carnage, the hellish destruction is something that, even if your ticket to the matches brings you front row ringside, you can only witness from afar.

And for that, you ought to get down on your knees and thank your lucky stars. ECW

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The Franchise Forum

TO BE, OR NOT TO BE, A FRANCHISE

Lately, professional wrestling has been inundated with athletes claiming to be everything from icons to dead men, but only one claims to be a Franchise. That is, until now.

Recently, Justin Credible and Lance Storm have laid claim to the title that yours truly made world famous. The battle lines have thus been drawn. I haven't spent 18 years in this great sport to become a doormat for wanna-bes or maybes. Nor have I spent the better part of the past six years in ECW as its legitimate Franchise to stand idly by as two greenhorns claim to be what I have rightfully earned – the moniker of The Franchise!

To explain fully what is at stake here, I must go back to 1993 and the earliest days of ECW. ECW was known then as Eastern Championship Wrestling and lacked any nationally known stars. While it is true that some of the wrestlers in ECW at that time had earned reputations in Japan, none had worked for any of the national organizations, and certainly none had been in a position to be a good draw in the United States.

That changed when the company contacted me. Not only had I worked for every major company in the United States – including the WWF, WCW, NWA, and UWF – but I had also proved to be a commodity and a draw after teaming with Ricky "The Dragon" Steamboat and winning the unified WCW/NWA World Tag Team Titles. The need for ECW was clear and undeniable.

If ECW was to succeed, this fledgling company needed a star to build the promotion around. I would emerge as that star by signing with the ECW in the fall of 1993.

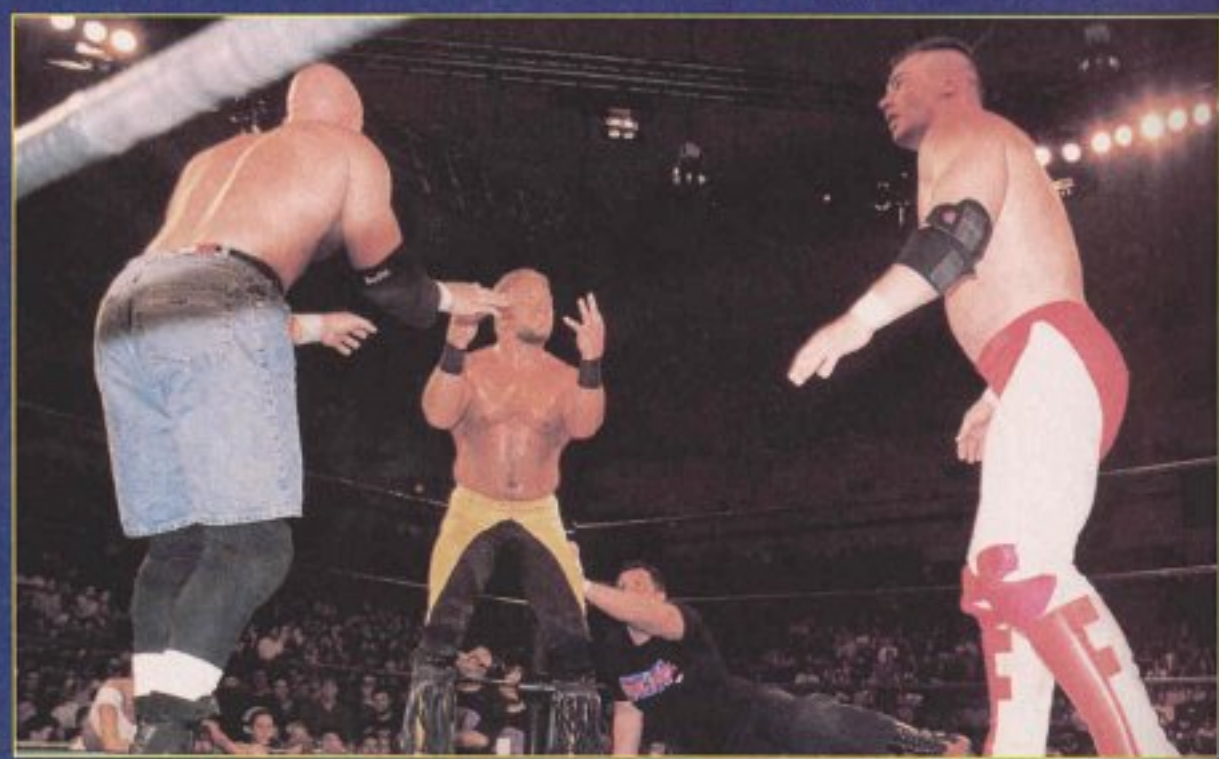
The term "Franchise" first emerged in football and baseball in the late '80s and early '90s. Teams in these sports starting identifying one player as their "franchise player," meaning that player was considered the most important one on the team's roster. Thus, when ECW signed me, by virtue of my past in professional wrestling, I became the most important player on ECW's roster – ECW's Franchise!

Over the past six years, I have taken the term "Franchise" very seriously. Sometimes, as "The Franchise Forum" in the last issue made clear, I've taken it *too* seriously. Far too often, the wars in ECW have resulted in serious injury. As THE Franchise, I chose to fight with these injuries. I have no doubt shortened my career, but a legitimate Franchise puts his team before his self-interest.

I've entered the rings of ECW with injuries that have forced other athletes to retire. The Ultimo Dragon retired after sustaining the same elbow injury I suffered prior to my defense of the ECW World Heavyweight Title at Wrestlepalooza '98 against Al Snow and Head. Pro football player Merrill Hoge of the Pittsburgh Steelers and Chicago Bears retired after five concussions. I've fought on after 14 concussions. Again, it takes more than an injury to peel the name "Franchise" off of me!

A real Franchise personifies fortitude, the ability to meet danger and withstand pain or adversity with courage and intensity. No one in our sport epitomizes this more than a Franchise ... more than The Franchise ... more than Shane Douglas!

There is far more to the measure of a Franchise than just the heart to play and perform with an injury. A Franchise is also defined by his achievements. These accomplishments not only define the man claiming to be a Franchise, but they must also define the promotion he wrestles in. No man in any promotion of any era has



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been as relevant to his promotion as I have been to ECW.

Some wrestlers in other promotions have been impact players and great champions. No one, though, has hoisted a tiny company like Eastern Championship Wrestling on his back and carried it to such success in such a short time, as I have with ECW. At the time I did this, wrestling was suffering one of the worst downturns of its history. Still, ECW thrived and grew largely on the achievements of its Franchise.

Consider that I:

- Threw down the NWA World Title and elevated ECW's Heavyweight Title to World Title status (recognized as a World Title faster than any other title in this sport's history).

- Transformed Eastern Championship Wrestling into Extreme Championship Wrestling, and thus turned a regional promotion into a national one.

- Took ECW to the wrestling nirvana known as Pay-Per-View after returning from a brief stint in the WWF.

- Further elevated the legitimacy of the ECW World Title by challenging the champions of the "Big Two" promotions to shootfights (wisely, none of them accepted).

- Debunked the myth of "The Nature Boy" Ric Flair being THE man by challenging him to a shootfight, which he declined to accept to defend his claim of being, WHOO, the man that walks the aisle.

- Became the greatest world champion in ECW's history by defeating every major star that was in or came to ECW, including the legendary Terry Funk, Sabu, Taz, Mankind, Sandman, Farouk, Dean Malenko and Tully Blanchard (of The Four Horsemen), Al Snow with Head, Too Cold Scorpio, Marty Janetty of The Rockers, Tommy Dreamer, Bam Bam Bigelow, Raven, Hawk of The Road Warriors, and Tito Santana.

- Revolutionized the art of wrestling interviews by shooting (telling the true lowdown) and not following a scripted interview.

You see, Lance Storm and Justin Credible can claim to be a Franchise, but that's all they can do ... *CLAIM* to be a Franchise. In other words, the best they can ever be is a wanna-be. One does not make himself a Franchise. Great men are forged from great deeds, and the same holds true for being a Franchise. I am a product of what I have achieved. Period!

I have never backed down from a challenge, and I'm not about to start now. This is a battle for more than just a name. It is a battle for a title. It's not just a gold belt you wear around your waist or a ring you win in a game. This battle is for the biggest prize in the promotion, to be known as the most important player on the team. Justin Credible and Lance Storm should familiarize themselves with my history. Many have tried to do what they are attempting, yet none has succeeded.

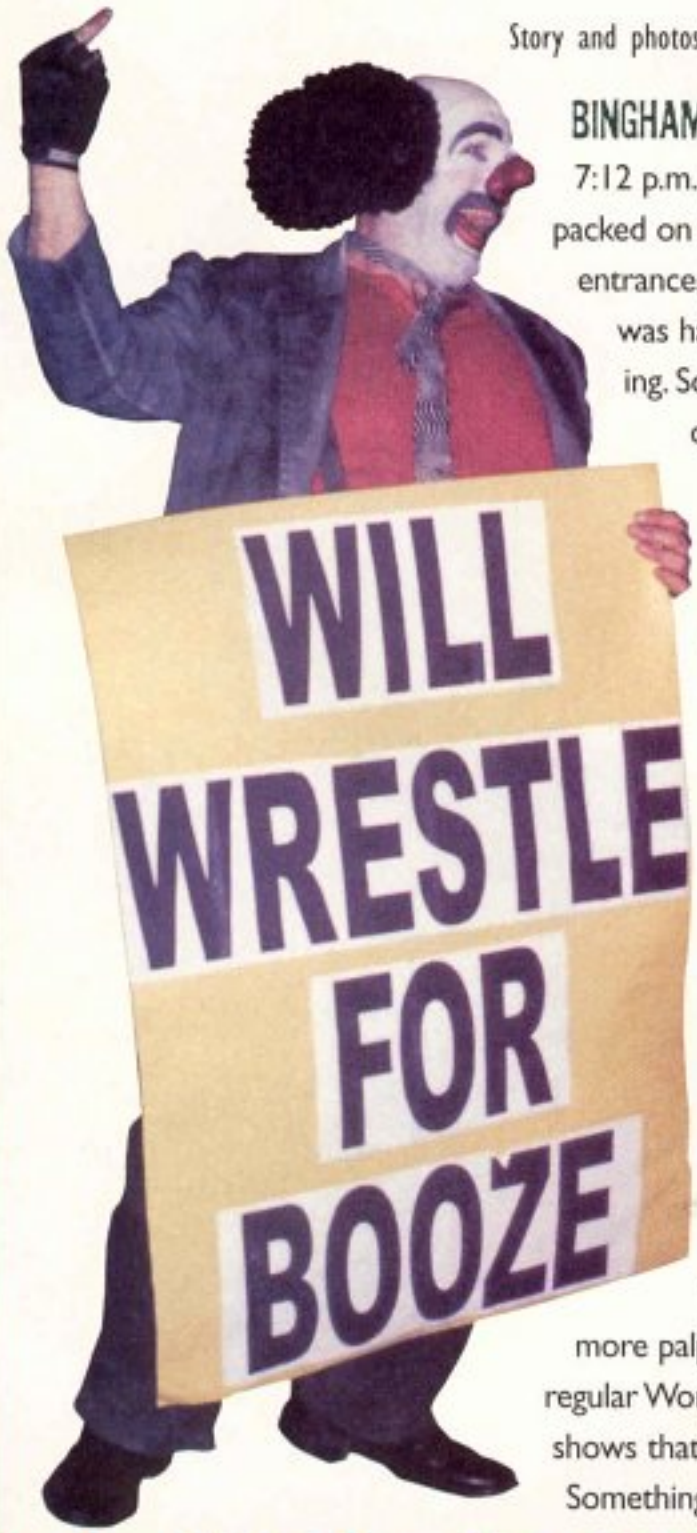
Ego and heart are two elements difficult to overcome, and I have an abundance of both. In the end, the fans and history will be the ultimate judges of who ECW's Franchise really is. Actually, Lance and Justin, the verdict is already in. Of the three of us, two are pretenders. I AM ECW'S FRANCHISE!

See you punks in the ring! Get ready to count the lights! ecw

ECW FANS TAKE OVER

the "hardcore" movement gains momentum in binghamton

Story and photos by Denny Burkholder



BINGHAMTON, N.Y. – It was 7:12 p.m. The masses stood packed on a long ramp to the main entrance, but the end of the line was halfway around the building. Someone started a chant of "OPEN UP! OPEN UP!" Soon the entire crowd had joined the chorus. With less than an hour until bell time, the doors remained shut. Then, a loud cheer echoed from the entrance of the Broome County Arena. The fans at the front of the line informed the stragglers in the rear that ushers had finally begun to tear tickets.

The energy in the air was far more palpable than at any of the regular World Wrestling Federation shows that occupy the arena. Something different was going on. Binghamton, New York, was about to experience its first night of Extreme Championship Wrestling.

No 40-plus dinosaurs with championship gold and painted-on beards. No racecar drivers pretending to be hardcore.

This is ECW. Make way for the F'N show.

Before passing the gate, each fan was checked for suspicious cargo. As opposed to workers at World Championship Wrestling shows, ticket-takers at ECW events are not asked to scan signs for mentions of "suck it" or "Austin" or anything drawing attention to another wrestling organization. ECW fans are free to write just about anything on their signs. What security personnel were looking for were foreign objects – frying pans, cheese graters, street signs – that could harm other fans.

Fans of weapons and medieval-style beat downs would not be totally discouraged, though. The

main event for ECW's Binghamton invasion was a Gangsta's Paradise cage match pitting New Jack, Axl Rotten and Balls Mahoney against the Dudley Boyz and Mustafa.

The Broome County Arena had been exclusive to the WWF since at least 1985. It is where Randy Savage injured the neck of Ricky Steamboat, setting up their classic Wrestlemania III encounter. A couple of years ago on live television, Brian Pillman darted from the Binghamton crowd and attacked a surprised Steve Austin.

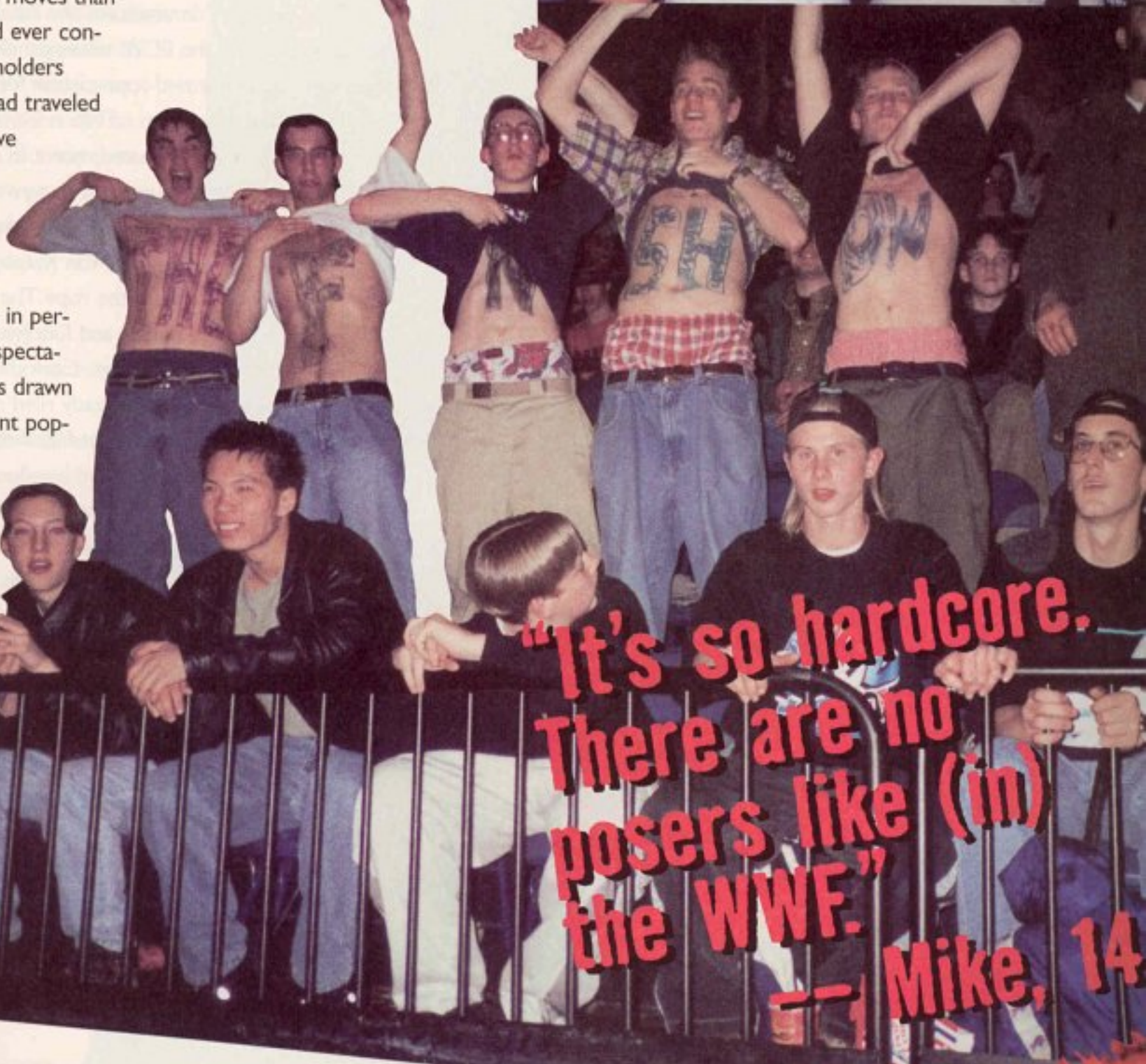
In three hours, ECW wrestlers gave Binghamton wrestling fans more stiff shots and breathtaking moves than any other promotion could ever conjure up. Many of the ticketholders were ECW fanatics who had traveled hours from home to see live ECW action. Some were local ECW supporters who, until that night, never had the chance to see their favorite wrestlers in person. Others were curious spectators – casual wrestling fans drawn to the sport from the recent popularity of televised wrestling – who had no idea what they were about to see. The marquee outside the arena said, "ECW WRESTLING: MARCH 26." Remembering those guys they loved with the funny eyebrows and the sock puppets, casual fans bought tickets.

In the general-admission riser seats, a woman named Kim sat quietly with her two sons, Daryl and AJ, ages 12 and 14 respectively. They had come to see how Extreme Championship Wrestling compared to the Monday night shows they watched regularly.

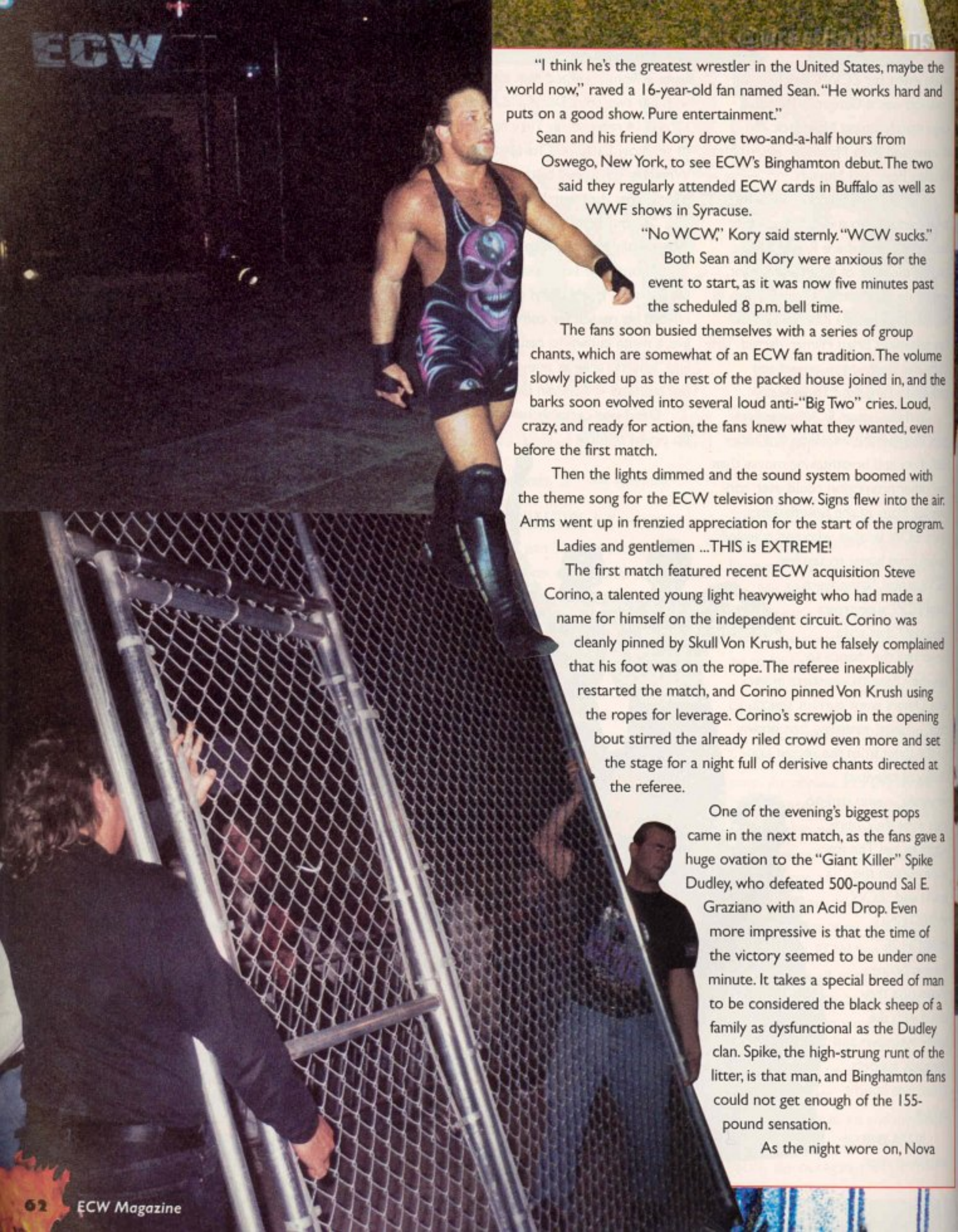
"It's our first live match," AJ said. "We usually just watch the WWF."

Though the boys were not very familiar with ECW, Daryl quickly offered his reason for coming to ECW live, a name known to casual observers and "smarts" alike as one of the best in the business – "Rob Van Dam."

Daryl was certainly not alone in his praise of RVD.



"It's so hardcore. There are no posers like (in) the WWF."
-- Mike, 14



"I think he's the greatest wrestler in the United States, maybe the world now," raved a 16-year-old fan named Sean. "He works hard and puts on a good show. Pure entertainment."

Sean and his friend Kory drove two-and-a-half hours from Oswego, New York, to see ECW's Binghamton debut. The two said they regularly attended ECW cards in Buffalo as well as WWF shows in Syracuse.

"No WCW," Kory said sternly. "WCW sucks."

Both Sean and Kory were anxious for the event to start, as it was now five minutes past the scheduled 8 p.m. bell time.

The fans soon busied themselves with a series of group chants, which are somewhat of an ECW fan tradition. The volume slowly picked up as the rest of the packed house joined in, and the barks soon evolved into several loud anti-"Big Two" cries. Loud, crazy, and ready for action, the fans knew what they wanted, even before the first match.

Then the lights dimmed and the sound system boomed with the theme song for the ECW television show. Signs flew into the air. Arms went up in frenzied appreciation for the start of the program.

Ladies and gentlemen ...THIS is EXTREME!

The first match featured recent ECW acquisition Steve Corino, a talented young light heavyweight who had made a name for himself on the independent circuit. Corino was cleanly pinned by Skull Von Krush, but he falsely complained that his foot was on the rope. The referee inexplicably restarted the match, and Corino pinned Von Krush using the ropes for leverage. Corino's screwjob in the opening bout stirred the already riled crowd even more and set the stage for a night full of derisive chants directed at the referee.

One of the evening's biggest pops came in the next match, as the fans gave a huge ovation to the "Giant Killer" Spike Dudley, who defeated 500-pound Sal E. Graziano with an Acid Drop. Even more impressive is that the time of the victory seemed to be under one minute. It takes a special breed of man to be considered the black sheep of a family as dysfunctional as the Dudley clan. Spike, the high-strung runt of the litter, is that man, and Binghamton fans could not get enough of the 155-pound sensation.

As the night wore on, Nova

and Chris Chetti teamed up to score a decisive victory over Roadkill and Danny Doring. Also, in what is believed to have been the last scheduled singles bout between the two international superstars, Yoshihiro Tajiri pinned Super Crazy after a tiger bomb. That match had even the most raucous fans mesmerized, as most sat quietly in their seats, applauding, "ooh"-ing and "aah"-ing as the athletes risked life and limb in the name of competition.

Jeff Winner is one fan who was completely impressed by the ECW live experience. An ECW fan and a regular attendee of WWF events in Binghamton, this was his first live ECW show.

"They're more creative, they modify a lot of their moves," Jeff said. Jeff seldom took his eyes off the action in the ring while discussing why he thought ECW was so exciting, often stopping in mid-sentence for an emphatic "OH!" in reaction to a bump or well-executed move.

Jeff said he thinks people who complain that ECW is not good for society are wasting their breath.

"It isn't (good for society). But it's entertainment. And everybody wants to see them," he said.

Between matches, Jeff mentioned that some of the fans seemed confused by this hidden treasure known as Extreme Championship Wrestling, which had waltzed into Titan-Land and – just halfway through the card – brought the house down.

"I don't think the fans really know how to react," Jeff said.

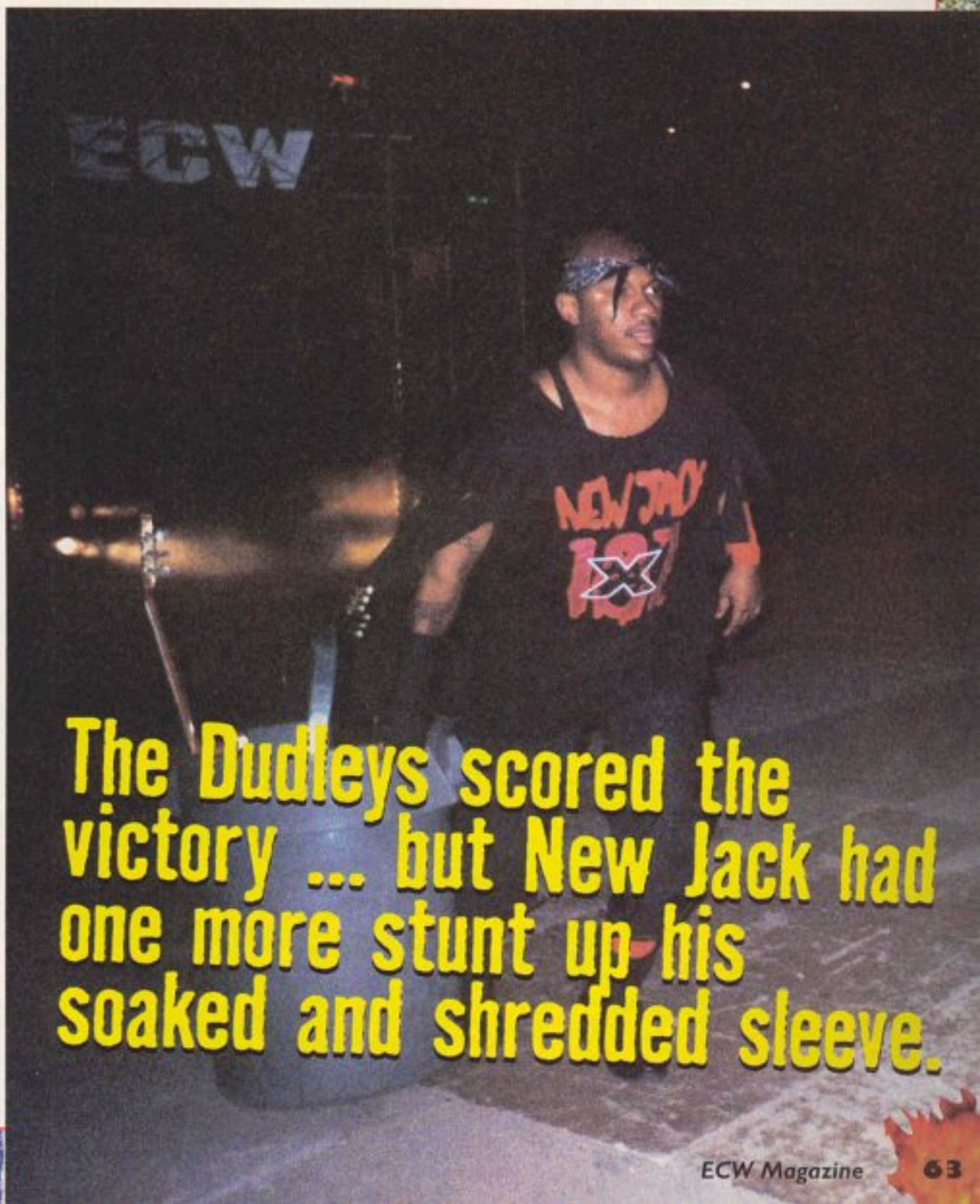
If that was true, most people had figured out how to react by the time a hardcore free-for-all between "The Innovator of Violence" Tommy Dreamer and Lance Storm took place. The match took the competitors outside the ring and through the crowd. The fans went nuts. Surprise run-ins by Justin Credible and "The Franchise" Shane Douglas brought the cheers to a fever pitch, as did the catfight between Storm's Beulah impersonator, Tammy Lynn Bytch, and Douglas' "Head Cheerleader," Francine.

As Jerry Lynn locked up with Tracey Smothers for the next match of the evening, the man they all came to see showed up. "Walk" thundered through the sound system. Fans sprung from their seats. ECW Television Champion Rob Van Dam was on his way to the ring.

Fans watched and yelled for RVD as he and fellow ECW tag team champion Sabu cleared the ring of Smothers and "Big Don" Tommy Rich. RVD then boldly challenged his No. 1 challenger to a match for the TV strap. Lynn accepted, and the crowd was treated to a technical clinic from the young superstars. Van Dam emerged victorious, thanks to an Arabian face buster to the back of Lynn's head by Sabu while the referee's back was turned.

Blood had been spilled throughout the evening, but nothing compared to the violence of the steel cage main event. While ECW officials assembled the cage, a group of young men at ringside passed the time by discussing their reasons for believing ECW was better than wrestling in the so-called "Big Two."

"They are much better than any other federation," proclaimed Mark, 14. "They are more graphic, more blood and stuff. The



The Dudleys scored the victory ... but New Jack had one more stunt up his soaked and shredded sleeve.

fights are much better than the other (organizations)." His friend Patrick, also 14, agreed whole-heartedly.

"It's crazy," he said in amazement. "Anything goes in ECW."

"I love that there's more chairs and tables," added Brian, 13.

Another teenage fan, 14-year-old Mike, noted that while other organizations purport to be extreme, ECW is the standard of excellence.

"It's so hardcore," he said. "There are no posers like (in) the WWF."

By the time the cage had been set up, Broome County Arena was abuzz with similar conversations and raves. Fans no longer questioned what it meant to be truly hardcore.

The main event did not disappoint. Axl Rotten and Balls Mahoney gave the Dudleys all they could handle in the match, during which all team members entered separately at timed intervals until all six competitors were in the ring. By the time Mustafa, the fifth entrant, got involved in the action, Axl, Balls and the Dudleys were battered and bloody. Mustafa aided the Dudleys in assaulting the chair-swinging wild men.

Axl's face was completely drenched in blood, and D-Von Dudley had been busted wide open as well. Then, the sound of a gunshot signaled the entrance of the "Original Gangsta," New Jack, complete with a trash can full of weapons.

As "Natural Born Killaz" – New Jack's theme music that plays through all of his matches – blared, the fans screamed in appreciation of the hardcore finale. New Jack made male fans shriek in horror as he treated Mustafa to a golf club square in the crotch. Bubba Ray Dudley spotted Balls climbing to the top turnbuckle from across the ring and knocked him off by throwing a perfectly-aimed trash can lid at his head.

The Dudleys scored the victory after executing the 3-D Dudley Death Drop on Balls, but New Jack had one more stunt up his soaked and shredded sleeve.

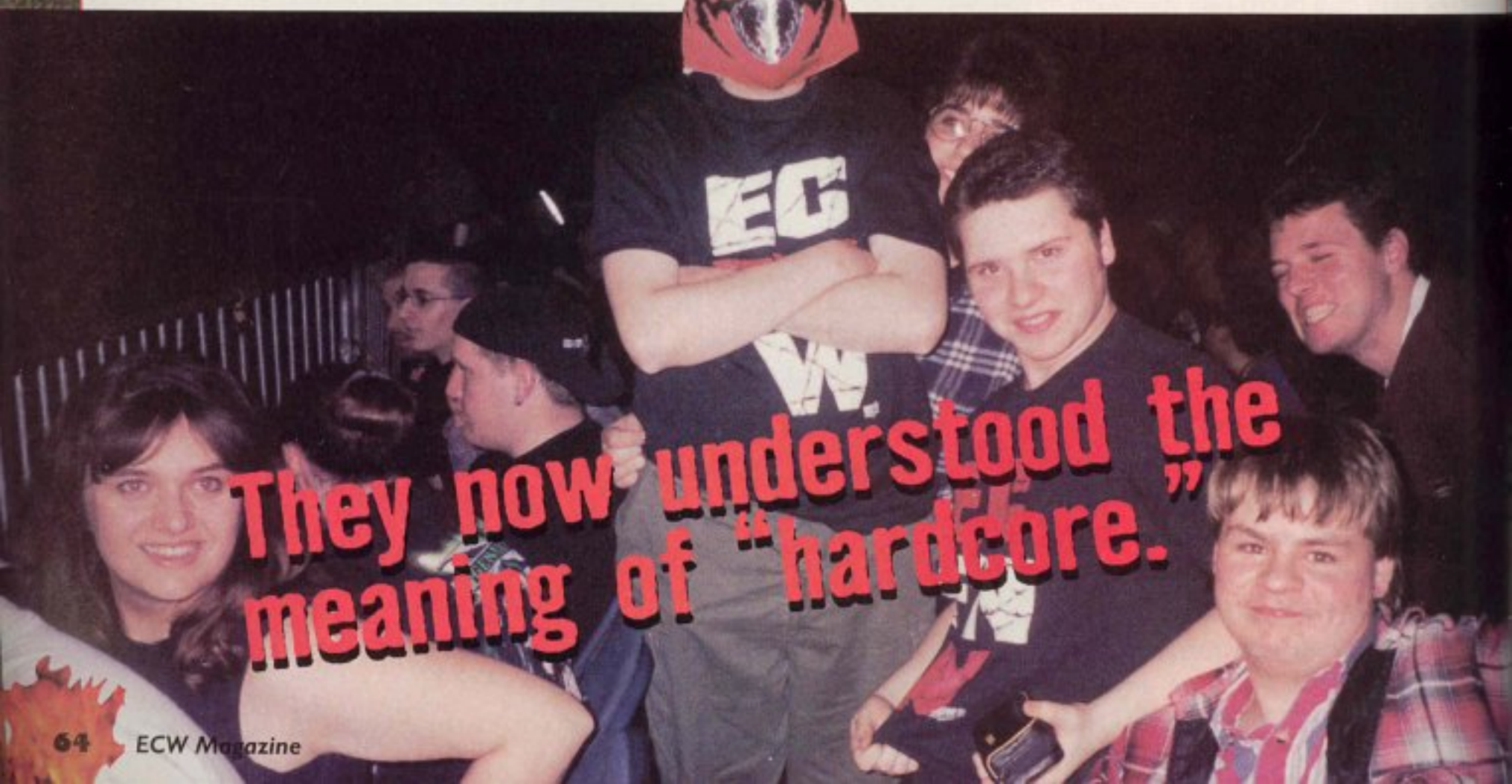
As fans watched in amazement, Axl and New Jack locked the Dudleys out of the cage and placed Mustafa on a table. New Jack ascended the cage, and – from 20 feet in the air – leapt onto his former partner, the table busting beneath them. As the fans cheered in appreciation, the night came to an exciting end. Most fans were still cheering even as they flooded the sidewalks of downtown Binghamton en route to their cars. They now understood the meaning of "hardcore."

Apparently, they also had new favorite wrestlers. The sea of "Austin 3:16" and "NWO" T-shirts that peppered the crowd waiting to enter the show had been replaced by hundreds of "RVD 4:20," "Franchise" and "New Jack" shirts as fans left the arena.

As the sun set on ECW's Binghamton invasion, fans no longer wondered why a venue that had been the site of so many historic WWF cards would invite ECW to perform. They saw the difference and loved it.

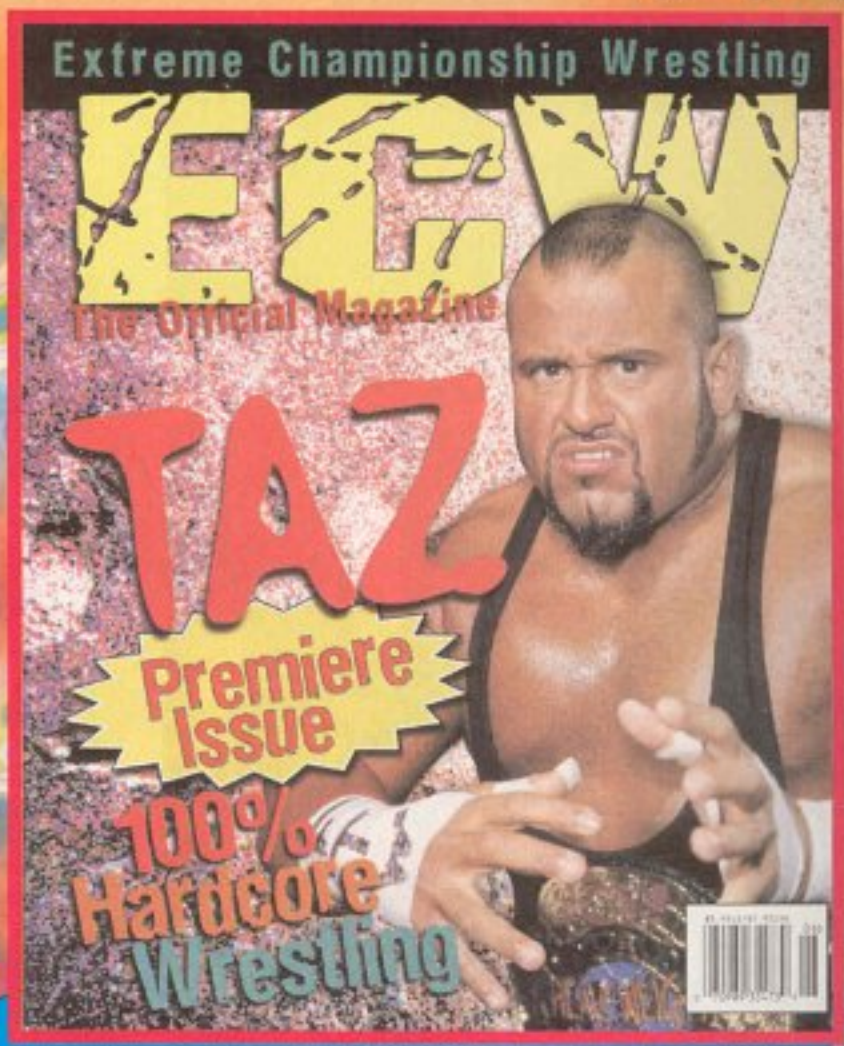
As Rob Van Dam grabbed the microphone to challenge Jerry Lynn earlier in the night, the first words he directed at Lynn were, "Do you know why I'm here?" If Lynn did not know, the fans did. From the back of the arena, one fan blurted out a phrase that summed it all up:

"BECAUSE YOU'RE THE F'N SHOW!" ecw



@wrestlingtears

RAW AND IN-YOUR-FACE . . . ACTION!



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ECW Cybe

@wrestlingscans

Keeping the Revolution Alive

By Brad Perkins

The fans got what they came for and then some at the fifth annual ECW Cyberslam April 2-3 in Philadelphia.

For more than five hours, ECW personalities strode to the table at the front of the banquet hall at the Holiday Inn and proclaimed their love for the league and its fans.

"I believe in what we do here in ECW," Justin Credible told the crowd. "I've made a commitment to Paul for five years and that's that. I love what I do here, and there's no one better to book Justin Credible than Paul Heyman."

The groups included Nova and Jerry Lynn; Lance Storm, Tammy Lynn Bytch, Justin Credible, and Jason; The Dudley Boyz with Joel Gertner and Sign Guy; Rob Van Dam and Bill Alfonso; and Taz, Joey Styles, Shane Douglas, Francine, and Tommy Dreamer.

Most of the questions from the fans focused on whether the wrestlers would make the dreaded jump to one of the "Big Two."

"That's pretty good, it took two minutes," Taz said, responding to that inevitable question. "Sometimes I feel like I'm getting stale. Sometimes I think if I wrestled for WWF or WCW it would be a new, fresh start. I'm sure I wouldn't be marketed the same way. I'm sure I wouldn't have the push I have now.

"But I love where I work. I get to be me. Paul gave me a chance to run with the ball and I ran with it. Happiness is not always in the dollar sign," he said.

Meeting and interacting with the wrestlers was not the only highlight of the weekend for the fans, some of whom traveled long distances to see the question-and-answer session and the shows at the ECW Arena and in Edison, N.J.

"I've been dreaming of coming to the Arena for so long," said Andy Laudano of Arlington, Texas. "I like the way ECW treats its fans. I like the wrestling. I like how the guys bust their asses to give the fans a good show."

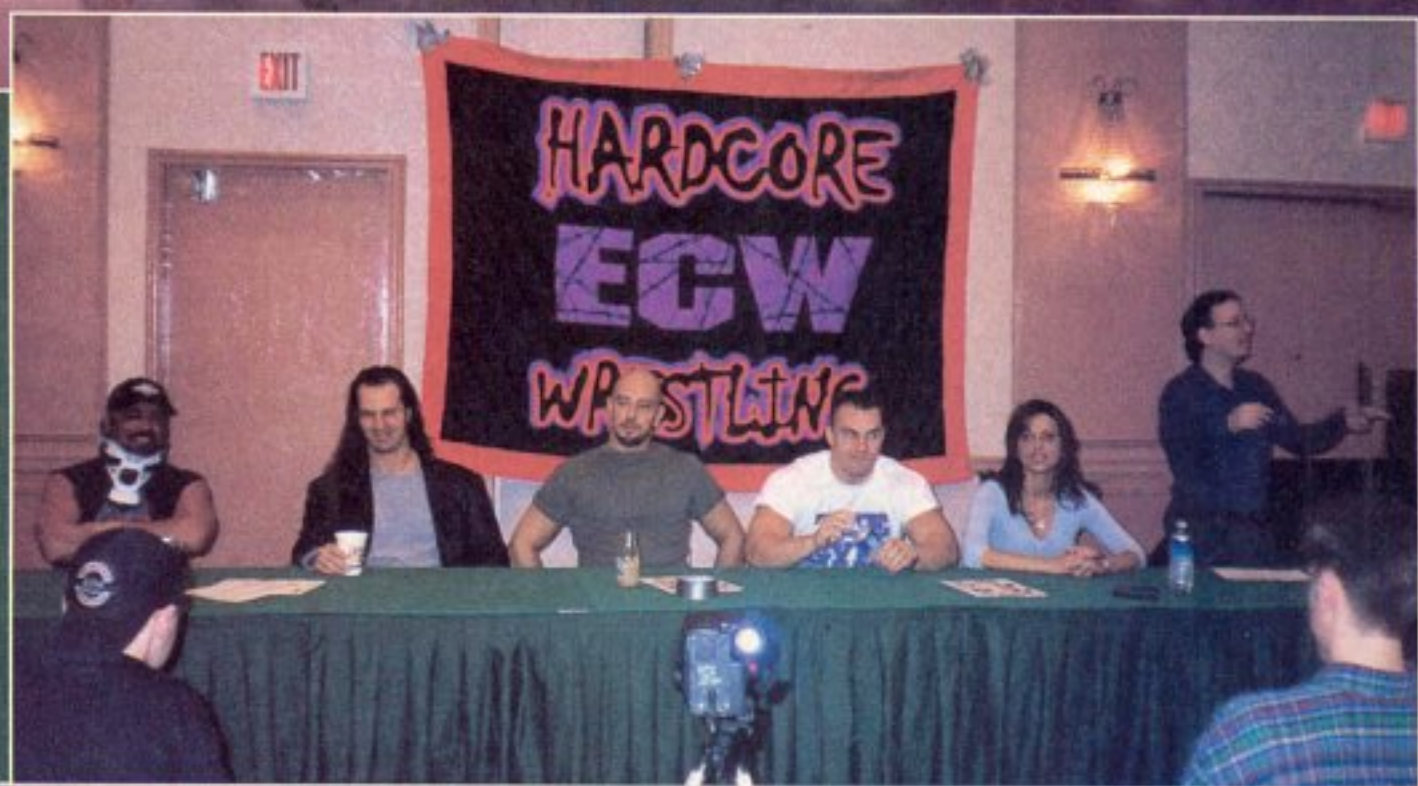
In addition to Texas, fans came from as far away as Ohio, New York, Massachusetts and Illinois, and from as close as the greater Philadelphia area and New Jersey. They listened to the wrestlers spout off on everything from the "Big Two" to the fans to their own wrestling heroes.

One of the big questions of the day was about recent television programs addressing wrestling, its popularity and the shows that take a "behind the scenes" look.

rslam '99:

@wrestlingscans

jason, cyrus, justin credible, lance storm and tammy lynn bytch profess their love for the ecw and its fans.



"We ain't telling these people nothing they don't know," Jerry Lynn said. "If you want to watch it, go ahead and watch it. If you don't want to watch it, throw your kid in his room and let him play Playstation."

Jerry Lynn was one of the crowd favorites, both at the question-and-answer session and at the two matches, where chants of "New F'n Show" erupted in the crowd during his matches.

"I gotta admit, it was a good feeling," he said.

The crowd, typically very involved during matches, was very into the question-and-answer session, applauding, laughing, and erupting into chants at will.

One major crowd reaction came at the expense of WCW veteran Ric Flair. Justin Credible was speaking about his career, saying he would like to leave in 10 years at 35, while he's still in his prime.

"We don't have a retirement fund and we can't – well, some people do – but we can't wrestle until we're 45 or 50," he said, to which the fans responded with a resounding, "Whooooo!"

Many of the wrestlers talked about their inspirations to get into the business.

"I liked the guys who would work hard," Rob Van Dam said. "I was never turned on by seeing the big fat guys do the same old lazy elbow in the corner."

"I was a huge mark for Hogan," Nova told the crowd. "I said my prayers, took my vitamins. I also liked Warrior. I got into Tiger Mask and Dynamite Kid. And Jerry Lynn, I watched him growing up," he said, taking a shot at the older Lynn, with whom he shared the podium, and drawing laughter from the crowd.

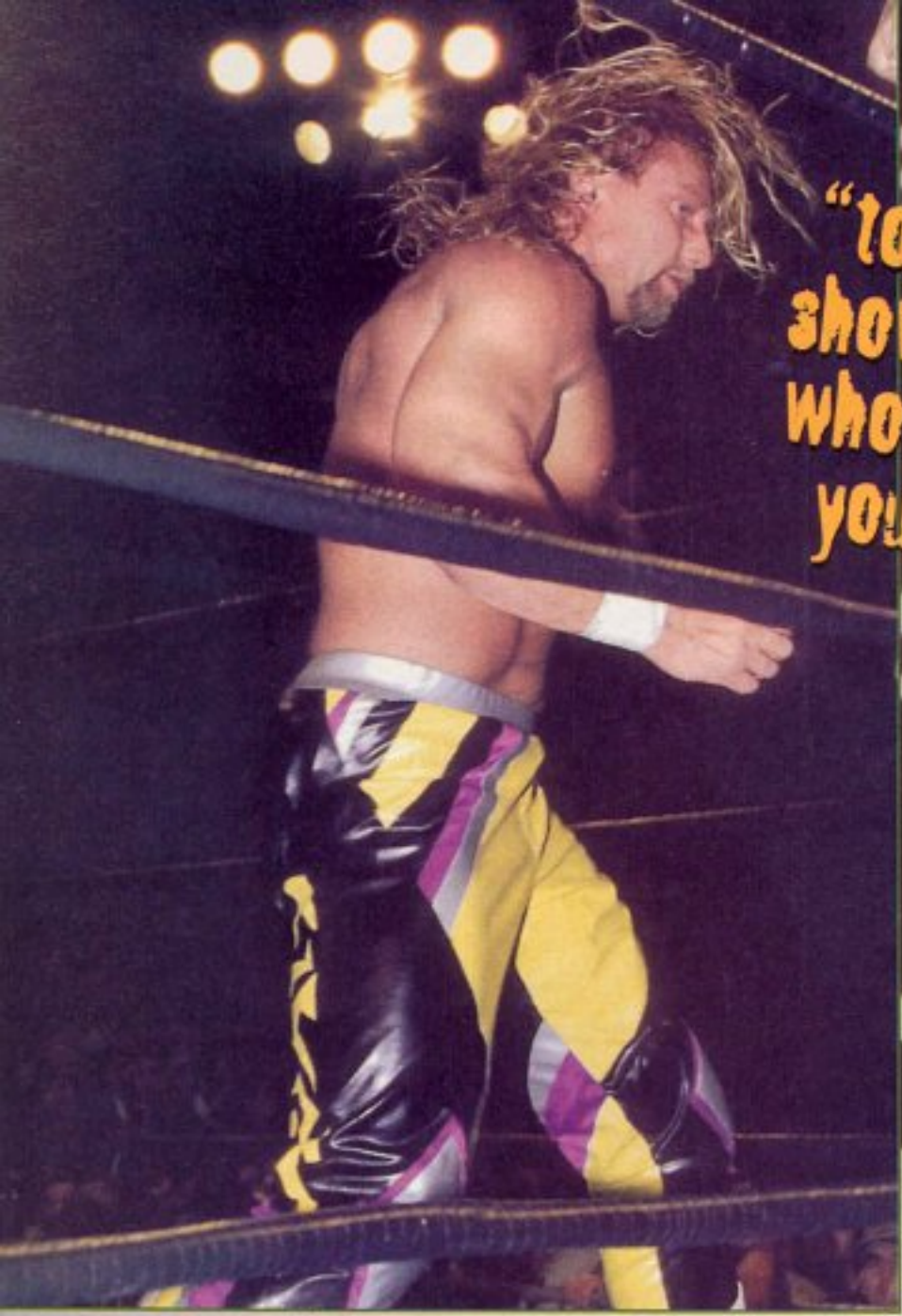
Others talked about how they got into wrestling. Taz spoke of Johnny Rodz's school and offered advice about getting into the business. Nova mentioned his start in Iron Mike Sharp's wrestling school. Some even told how their start in the business was almost an accident.

"I wasn't really a fan of wrestling before I got involved," Tammy Lynn Bytch said. "It was kind of an accident and I fell in love with it and pursued it. Jimmy Snuka was very kind to me. He asked me if I'd be his manager and I was his first female manager."

Cyberslam was a thrill for all involved. The weekend for the fans was appreciated by the hundreds in attendance and the thousands who graced the ECW Arena.

"ECW is the greatest, said fan Chris Bryant of Cleveland. "It has the greatest wrestlers and puts on shows better than anyone else." ECW

@wrestlingscans



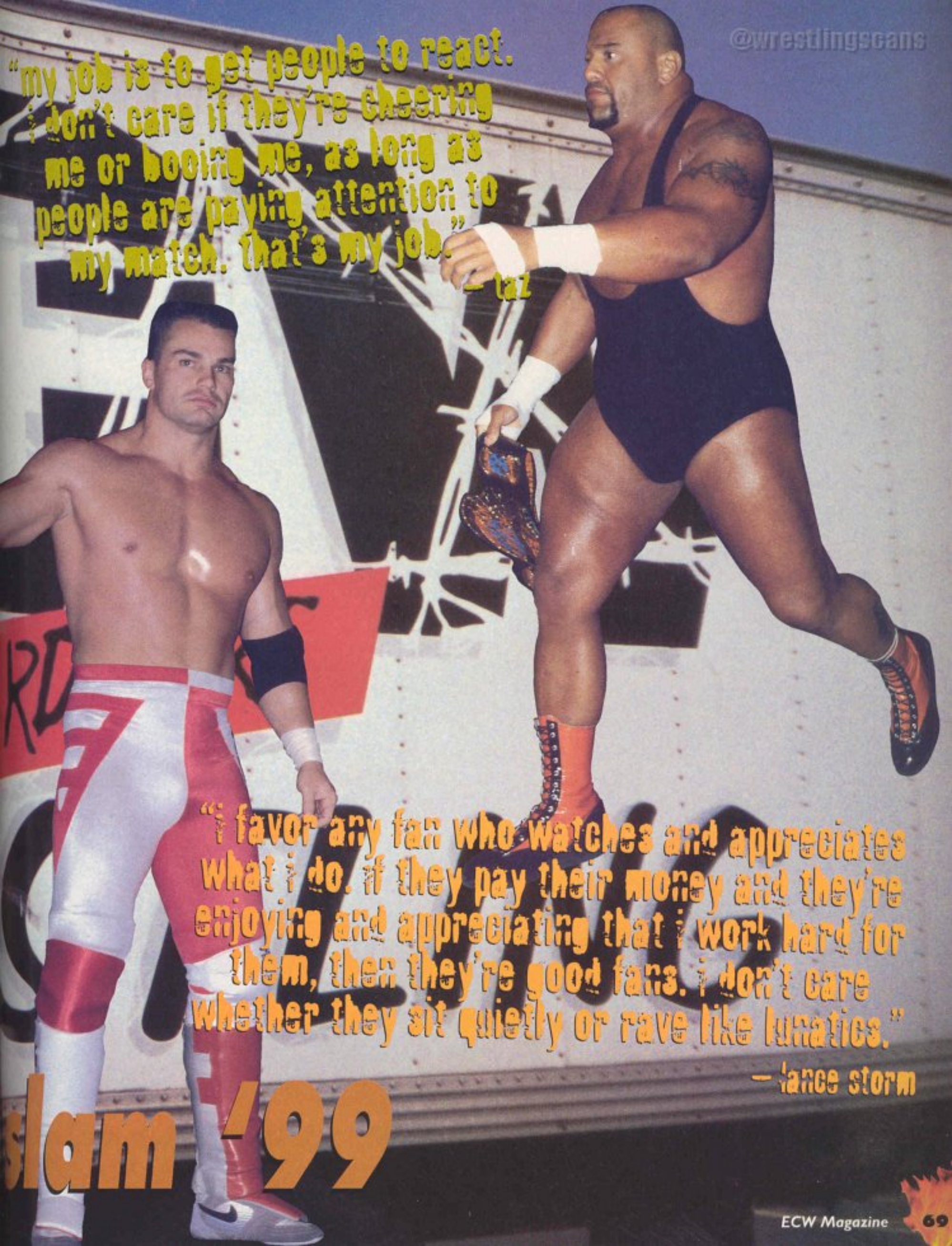
"to me, fans in ecw are part of the show. fans who have never seen ecw who are major fans of wwf or wcw, you come to an ecw show and it's gonna be culture shock."

— jerry lynn

"this is a business. if you're working at mcdonald's and making five bucks an hour and bk offers you six, what are you gonna do, right? this is a business, we have families to support."

— justin credible

ECW Cybe



@wrestlingscans

"my job is to get people to react. i don't care if they're cheering me or booing me, as long as people are paying attention to my match. that's my job."
— taz

"i favor any fan who watches and appreciates what i do. if they pay their money and they're enjoying and appreciating that i work hard for them, then they're good fans. i don't care whether they sit quietly or rave like lunatics."
— lance storm

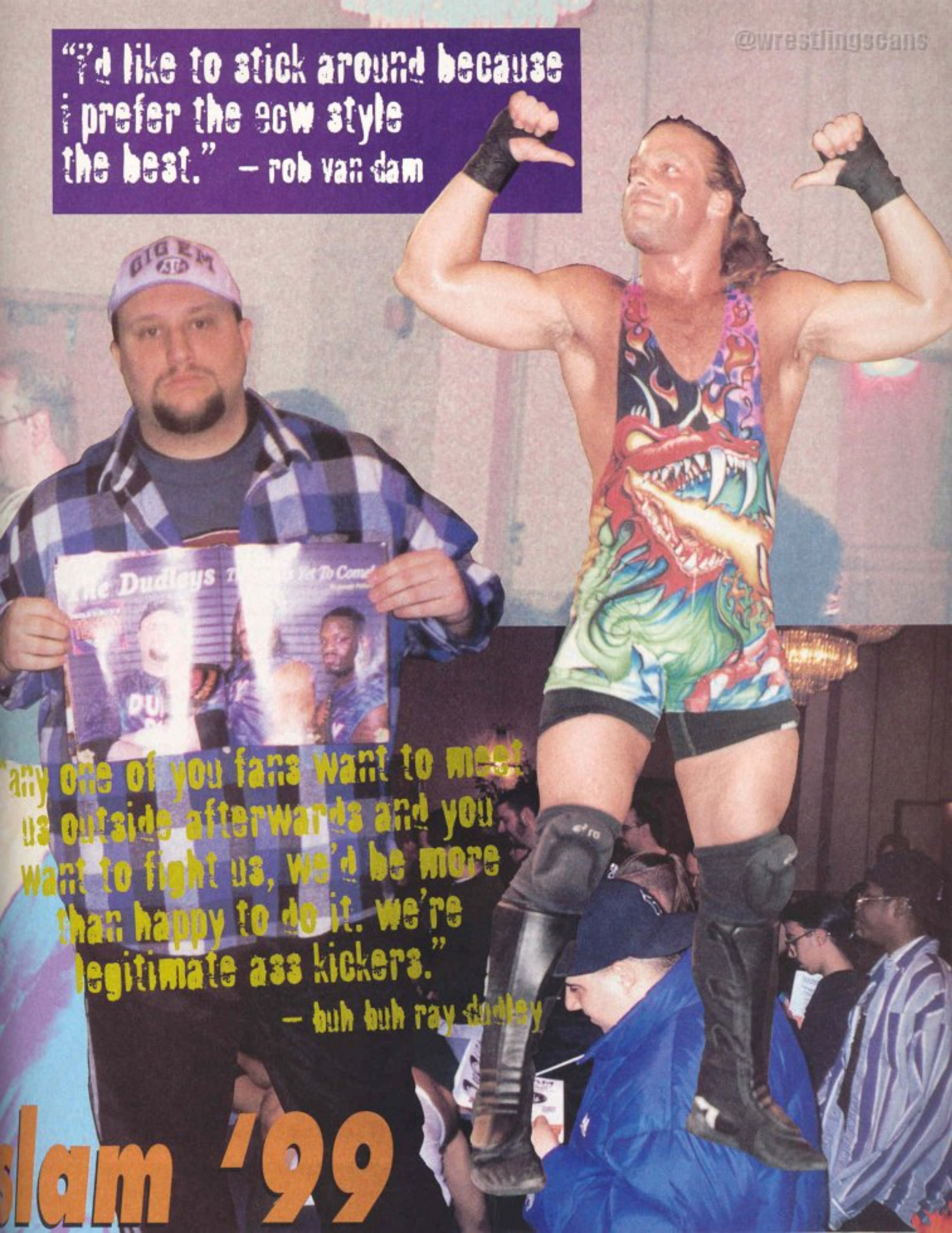
slam '99

@wrestlingscans

"I like the dudley boyz because they're the best tag team in the history of wrestling. Spike Dudley's my idol because he's the giant killer ... the real giant killer."
— Tristan from Queens, N.Y.

"I like what I do here. I have a good time. I think I've earned my spot. I think I've earned the right to be here."

ECW Cyber


@wrestlingscans
"I'd like to stick around because i prefer the ecw style the best." – rob van dam
BIG E.M
The Dudleys
"any one of you fans want to meet us outside afterwards and you want to fight us, we'd be more than happy to do it. we're legitimate ass kickers."
– buh buh ray dudley
slam '99

the WhistleBlower

by Bill Alfonso

OK baby, as I speak I'm at Tampa International Airport on the runway in seat 1A headed out to do another ECW show. I decided to start writing these articles after four or five phone calls from people like Dave Scherer, Bob Ryder and one of my best friends, Tod Gordon. Tod said to me, "Fonzie, why don't you write?" and I said, "Nah, Tod, I don't write." What put the icing on the cake is when Brad Perkins from ECW Magazine called me and offered me some funds and a column position and I figured, "Hey, this could be a great way to tell my story." I'm getting ready to write a tell-all book next year, but I'm gonna leak some stories out to you people right here.

Here's my deal. You wanna know a little bit about Bill Alfonso? Well I'm gonna tell you a little bit about me. I've been in the wrestling business for, well, this is my 20th year. I worked for every major company in the United States and I've worked for major companies in Japan. Well I'm gonna tell you a little bit about me. I've been in the wrestling business for, well, this is my 20th year. I worked for every major company in the United States and I've worked for major companies in Japan. I got my first full-time job in the old Florida territory in 1980. I worked for all the territories, daddy. Then the cable companies started taking over the wrestling industry. I ended up in Atlanta for the National Wrestling Alliance for years, and then I moved on to the World Wrestling Federation. I ended up being an ECW superstar, managing Rob Van Dam and homicidal, suicidal, genocidal Sabu.

It's kind of ironic that I ended up managing Sabu. The first match I ever refereed was in Texas when Dory Funk was the owner of the territory. My first night actually in the ring, making my first payday, was refereeing a chain match between Terry Funk and Sabu's uncle, the one and only Original Sheik. I was petrified. But I did it, and somehow I ended up getting my shirt ripped off by The Sheik. Then he stabbed me with a pencil in the arm. I still have the lead mark in my right arm to prove it. If anyone wants to see just say, "Hey Fonzie, lemme see your lead mark from The Sheik." So me and Sabu naturally clicked. We have had a great relationship since day one 'cause me and his uncle have had a past together. Van Dam and Sabu have been good friends for years, even though they have a rivalry. It's just a competition because they both want to be the best. It makes it easy to manage the best tag team in the business.

A lot of people know me as a referee. I spent 15 years on the road as a referee. I actually left the business for six months in 1991, but then Hiro Matsuda called me and said, "Fonzie, we got a match at the Tokyo Dome in front of 65,000 people. It's Ric Flair vs. Tatsumi Fujinami, and everybody wants you to fly to Tokyo and referee this match. Both the WCW and New Japan offices agree you are the perfect man for this match." They paid my airfare, they gave me a big check to fly over and referee the one match. Of course I did it 'cause I like big checks and I like to be in the limelight.

I wanted to make a good impression when I got to Japan. I didn't want to be just another American referee. So I shaved and bought some new clothes.

But I wanted to be different. There were many good referees, and I was always one of the best, not to blow smoke up my ass. But I wanted to make a real impression at that show. Anyway, since it was U.S.A. vs. Japan, I sewed a U.S. flag and a Japanese flag on my shirt. It was a $60 designer blue shirt with a designer bow tie and brand new black pants and brand new classy shoes, so I looked unbelievable. I looked great. Right before the match, I walked out of the dressing room, and all the promoters popped. They loved me. Dusty Rhodes and Jim Crockett came up to me and were like, "The flags are a great idea. Who told you to do that?" I told them I did it on my own and they patted me on the back. I'm not looking for pats on the back. I'm looking to make who I work for happy and to get paid. I like what I do, and that's what made me the greatest referee in the business. The lesson here is that to make it in the business – and I made it on my talent not 'cause of nepotism or favors – you have to make yourself stand out. You have to do the little things.

I got a billion stories to tell and I'm gonna tell them to you people right here in every issue of ECW Magazine. So write in to all the producers and all the editorial guys and ask me any questions you want. I got stories from road trips like shooting alligators with Roddy Piper in the Everglades and stories about everyone in the wrestling industry from Ric Flair to Hulk Hogan to Vince McMahon, so feel free to ask me anything you want. Hey, if you don't ask me, I'm gonna tell you anyway. ECW

What do you want to see Fonzie write about? Send in your comments and suggestions to ecw@hsmedia.com. If you don't have access to e-mail, you can mail your suggestions to: ECW Column Ideas, c/o H&S Media, 2121 Waukegan Road, Suite 120, Bannockburn, IL 60015. Fonzie will listen to your ideas and tell you what you want to hear. And without the pain of his whistle in your ear.

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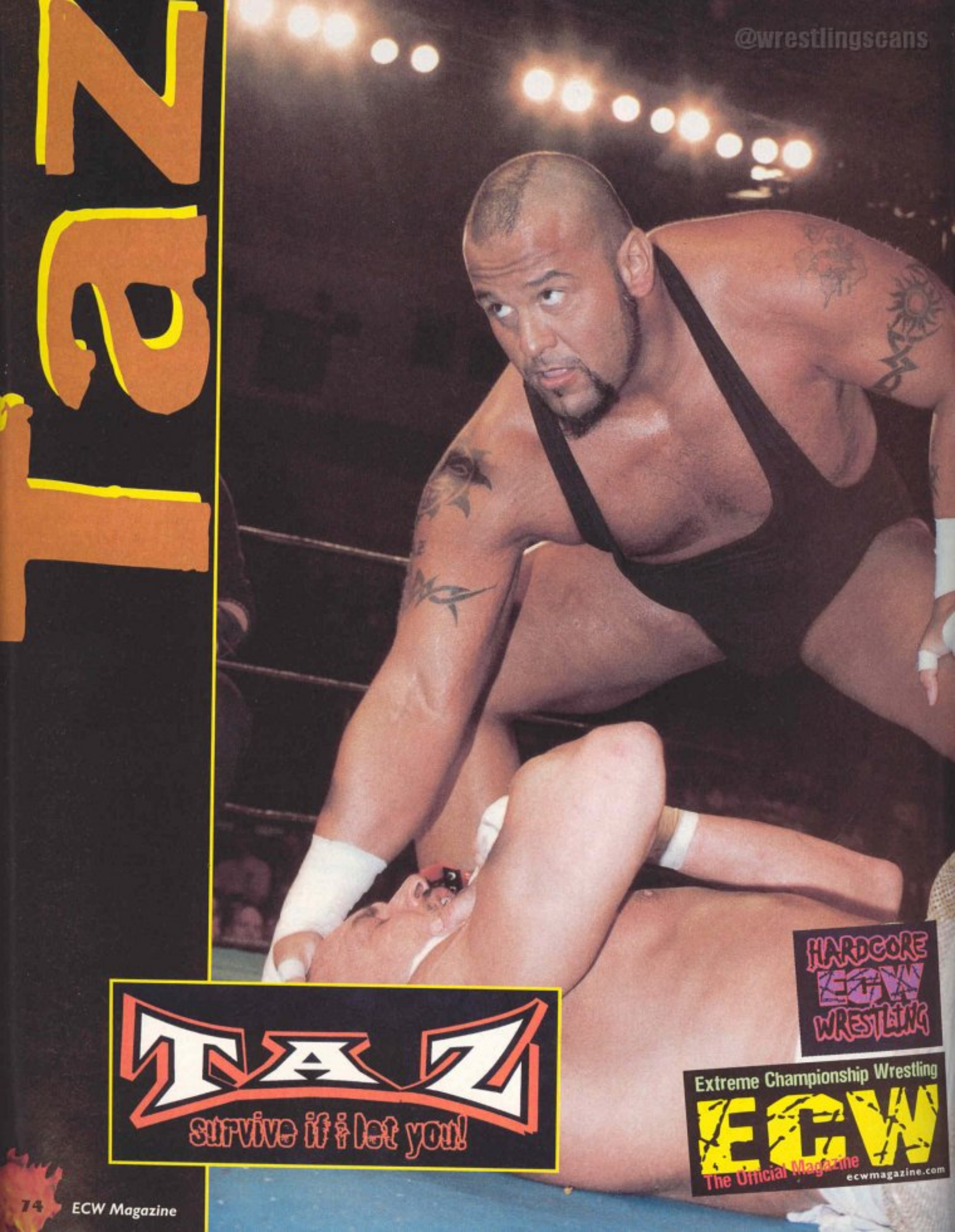
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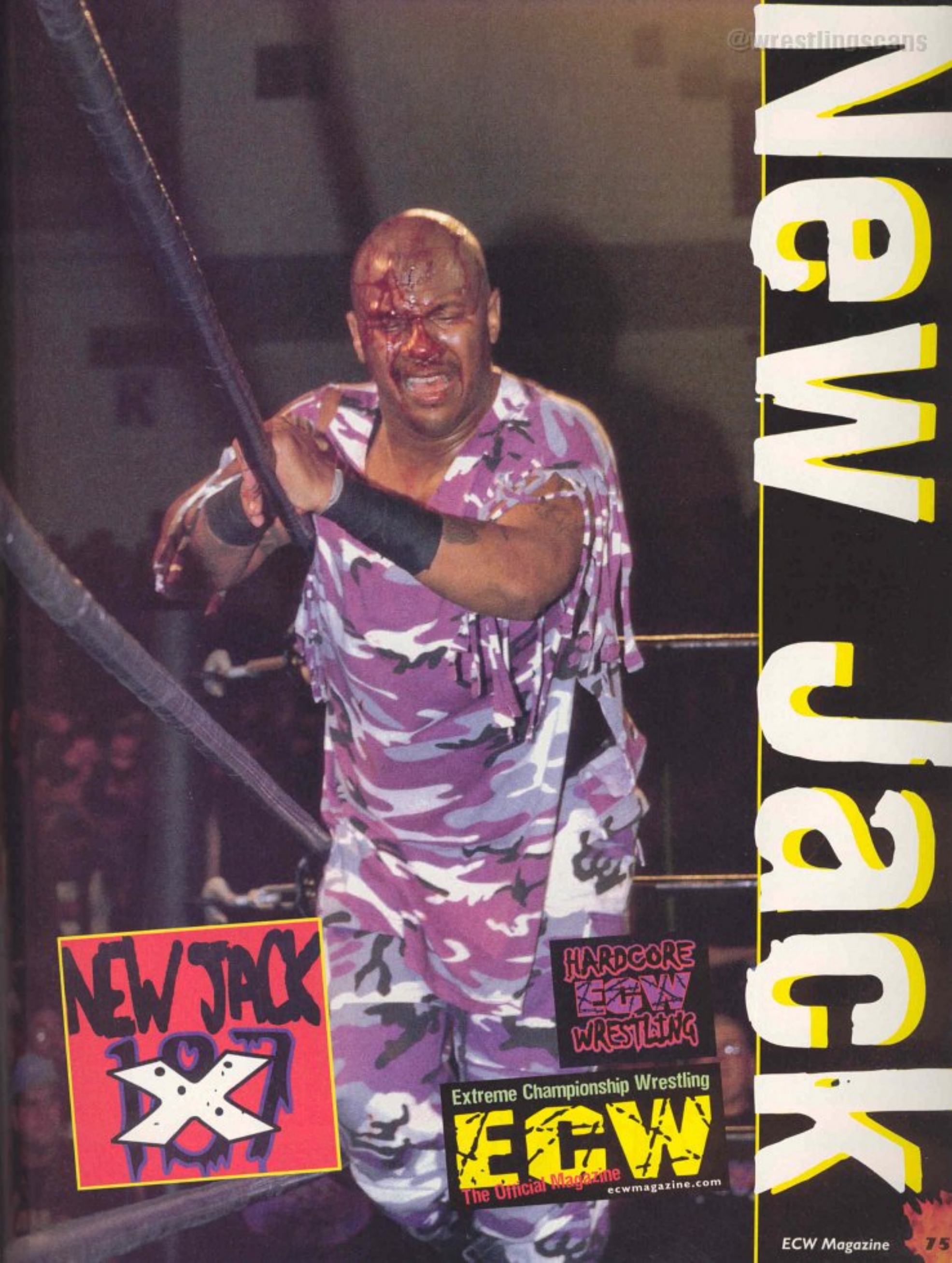
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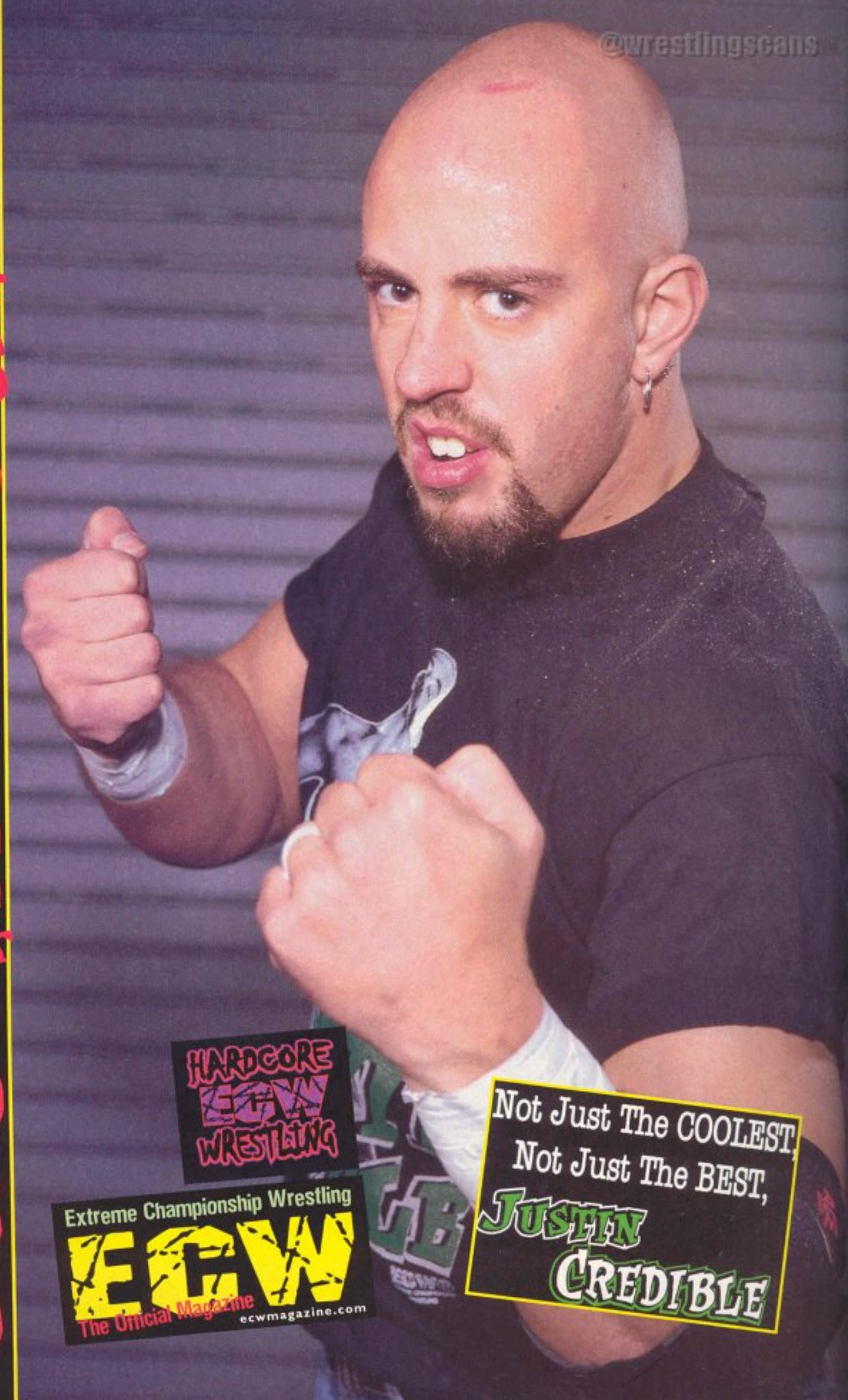

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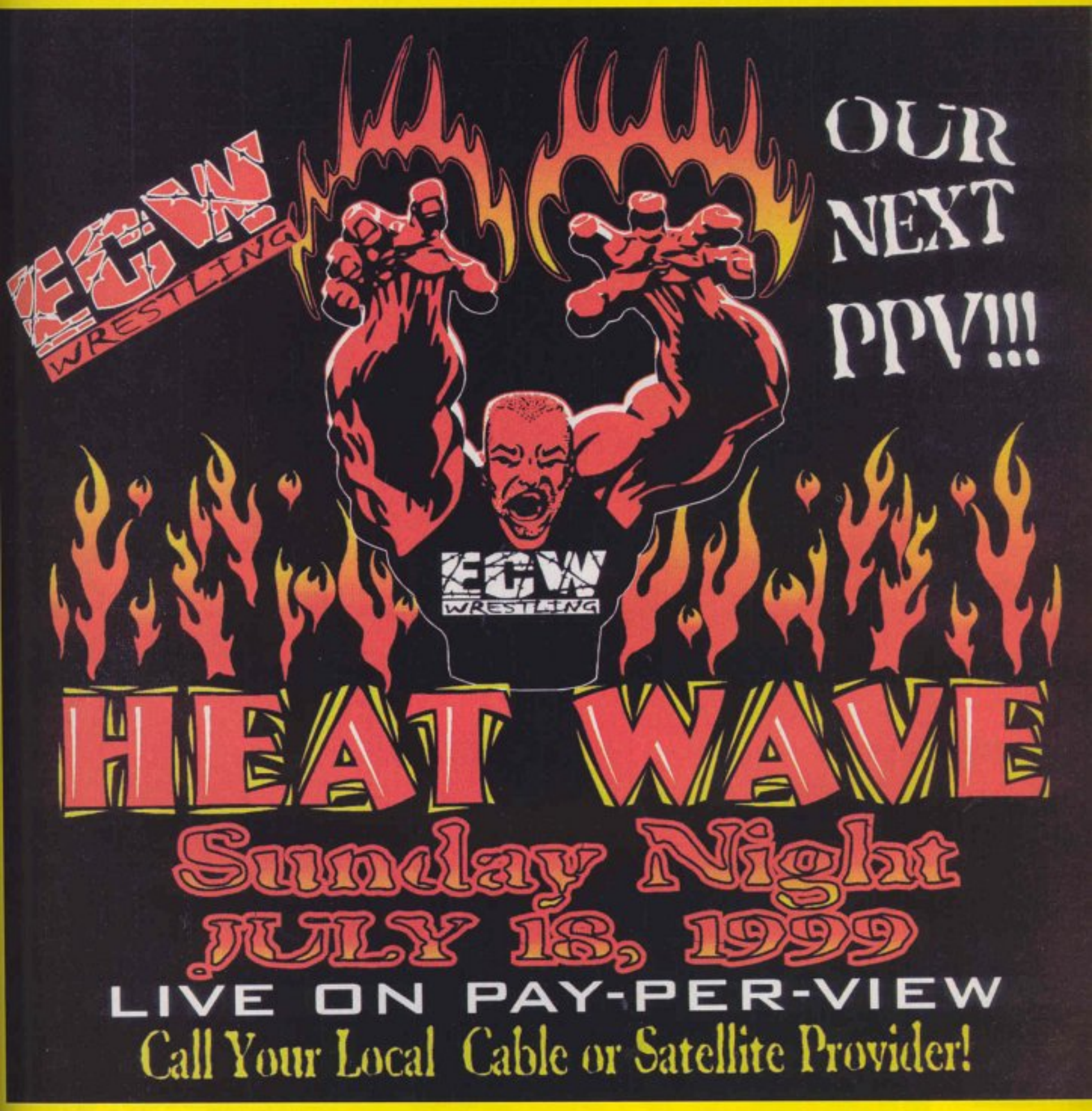

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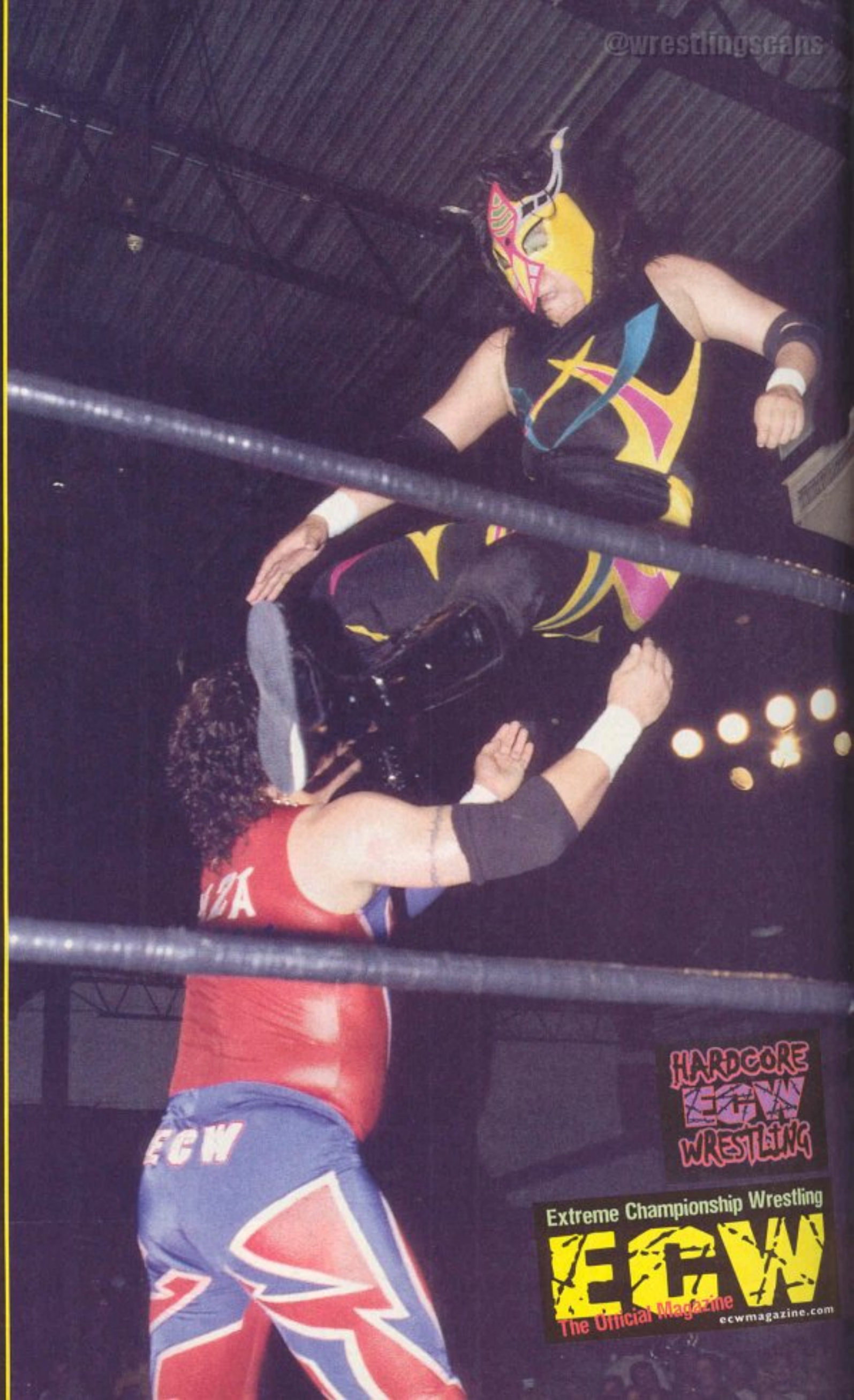
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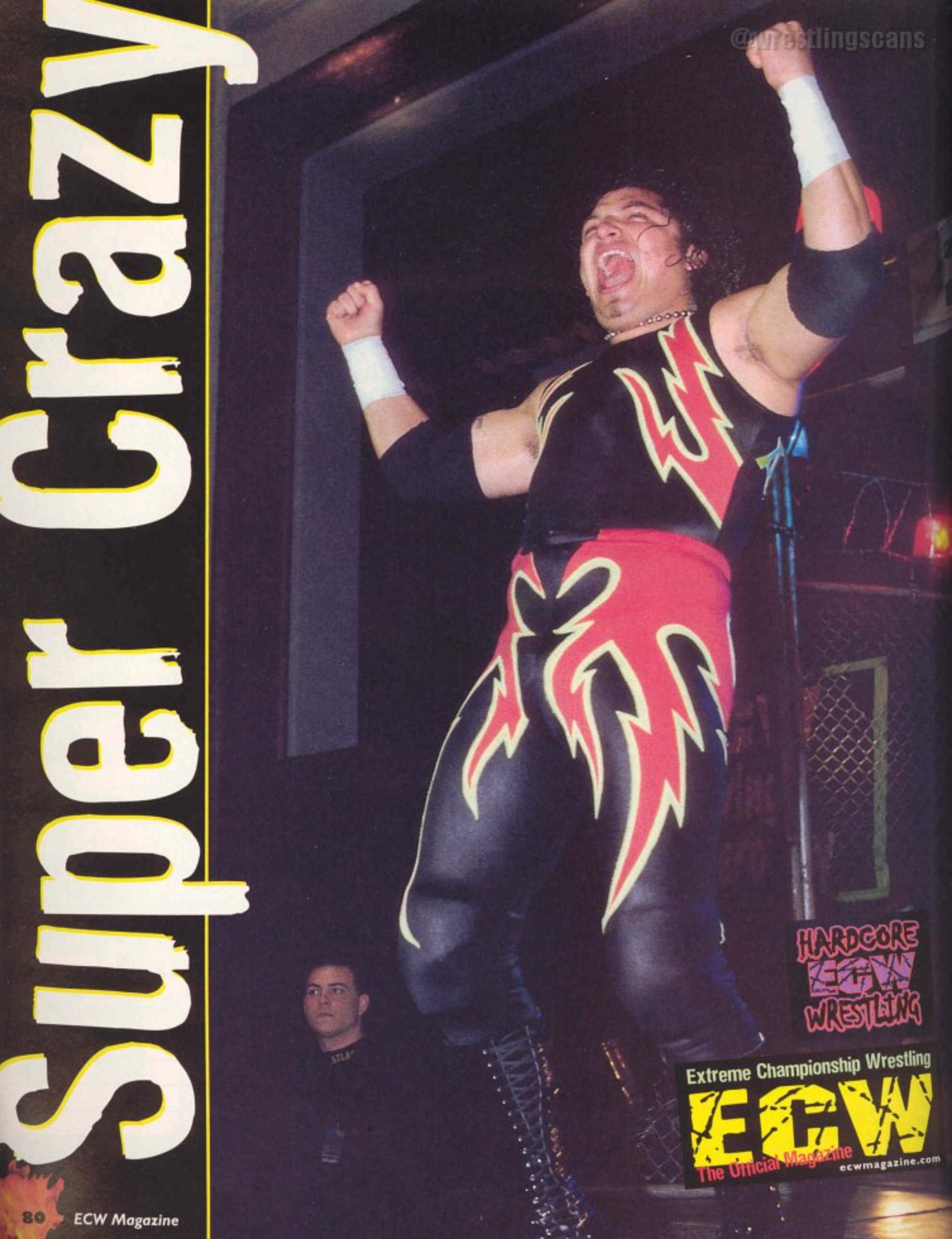
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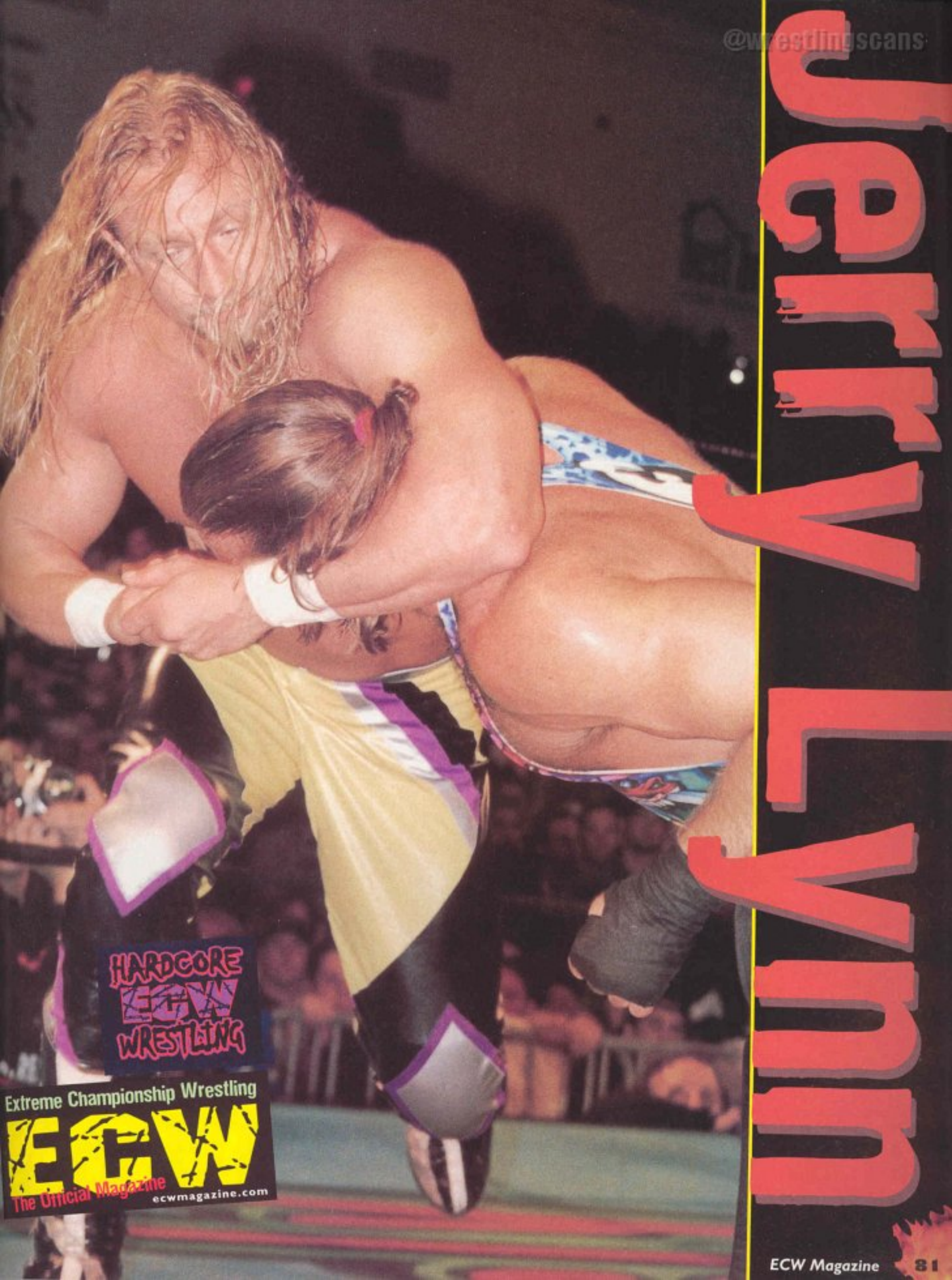

Jerry Lynn

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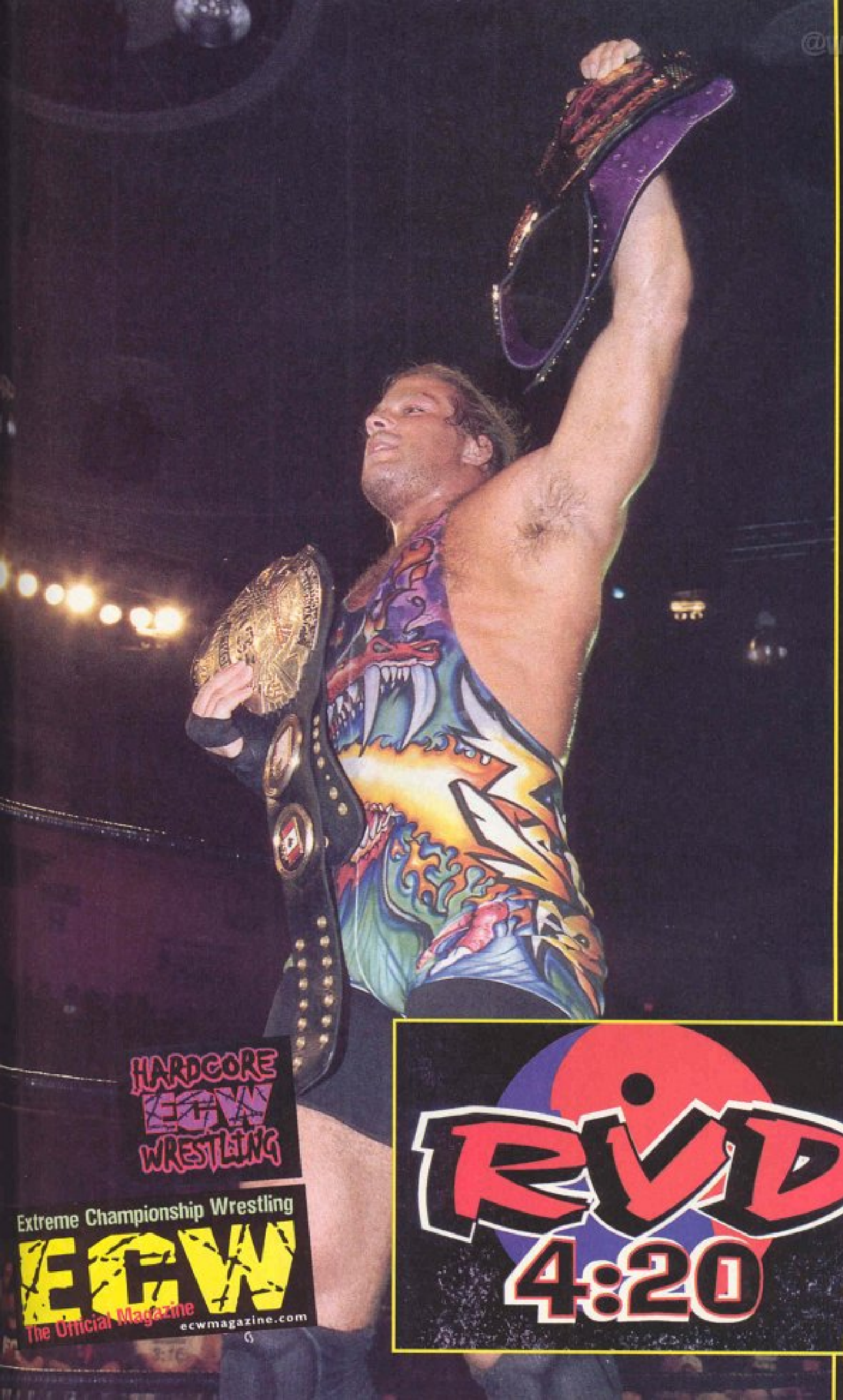

RoD VS Undead

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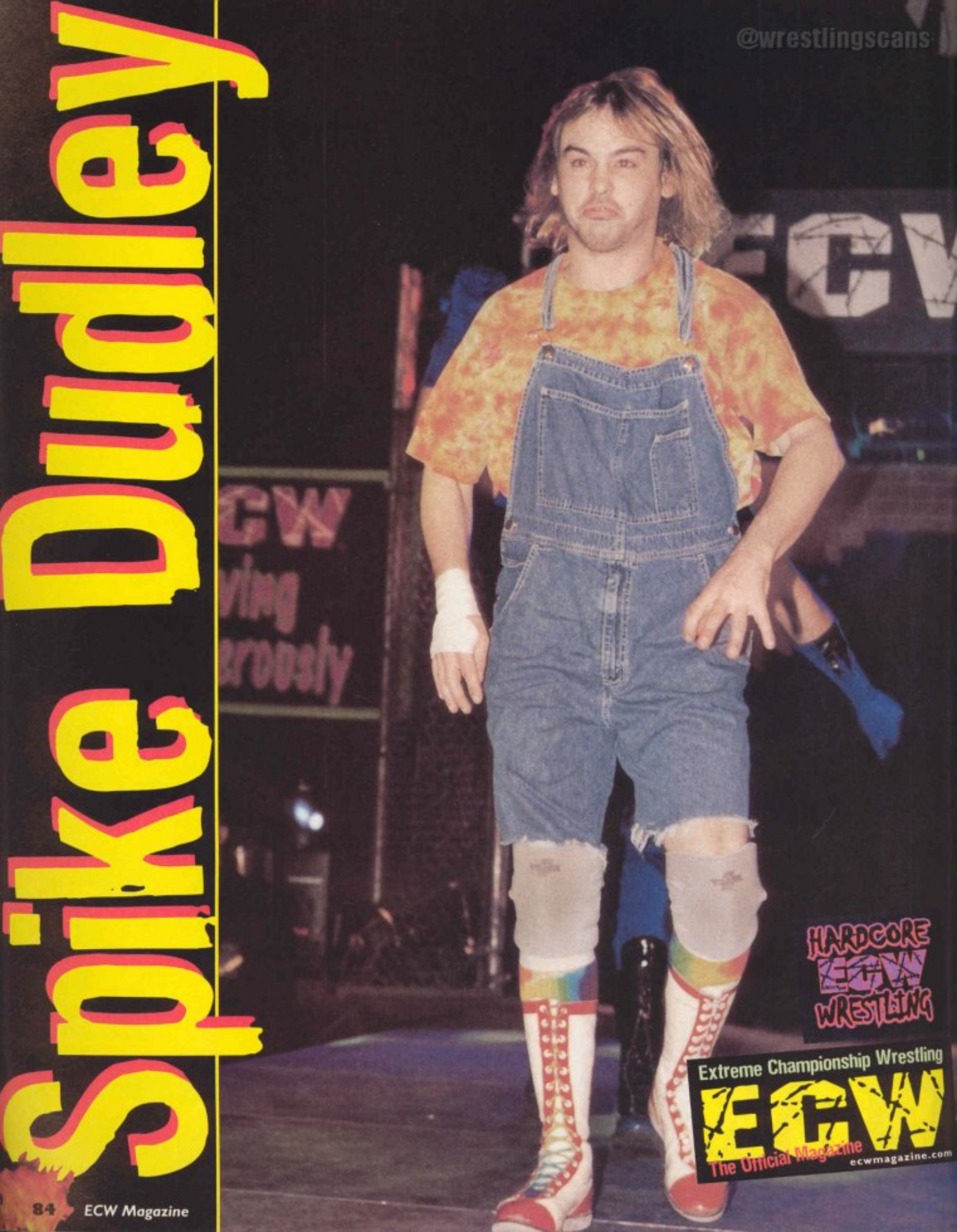
Dudley Spike



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ALL TAPES 4 HOURS LONG - WITH MANY MORE MATCHES – TOO MANY TO LIST!

ECW 42 Gangstas vs. Dudleys vs. Eliminators (3 way dance. Bloody)-Shane Douglas vs. Balls Mahoney,Tommy Dreamer vs. Louie Spicolli (bloodbath),Sabu + Rob Van Dam vs. Taz + Chris Candido - Balls Mahoney vs. Sandman - Taz vs. Spike Dudley - Raven + Steve Richards vs. Terry Funk + Tommy Dreamer (Wild)

ECW 43 Raven vs. Dreamer (clips) - Raven vs. Tommy Dreamer (final match ever between the two.Watch as Jerry Lawler invades the ECW Arena and attacks Tommy Dreamer and destroys the whole ECW locker room in one of the best matches ever in ECW history. Wild bloodbath!!!!!!) - Sabu vs. Taz - Taz vs. Shane Douglas (Title change) - Tommy Dreamer invades USWA TV - Dudleys vs. Eliminators - Tommy Dreamer vs. Louie

ECW TV 44 Bam Bam Bigelow vs. Pitbull #2 - Chris Candido vs. Tom Prichard - Sabu + Rob Van Dam vs. Tommy Dreamer + Sandman (Jerry Lawler and Jim Cornette invade the ECW Arena) Jim Cornette destroys Dreamer in the groin and sends him to the hospital!!!!!!!! - Taz vs. Louie Spicolli - Lance Storm vs. Tracey Smothers - Gangstas vs. Dudleys (cage title change) - Terry Funk vs. Shane Douglas - Sabu + Rob Van Dam + Jerry Lawler vs. Tommy Dreamer + Rick Rude + Sandman (cage) clips.

ECW TV 45 Triple Threat vs. Nova + Spike + Chris Chetti - Rob Van Dam vs. Mikey Whipwreck - Terry Funk vs. Sabu (Barb wire clips) - Spike vs. Bam Bam Bigelow, Spike pins Bam Bam !!!!!! - Dudleys vs. Balls Mahoney + Axl Rotten - Rob Van Dam vs. Tommy Dreamer

ECW TV 46 Shane Douglas vs. Al Snow - Rob Van Dam vs. Tommy Dreamer - Sabu vs. Bobby Duncum Jr. - Sabu vs. Tommy Dreamer - Kronus vs. Tracey Smothers - Shane Douglas vs. Axl Rotten - (Sabu attacks the Sandman with bottle over his head. Bloody!!!) - Rob Van Dam vs. Tommy Dreamer - Jerry Lynn vs. Chris Candido - Taz vs. Tommy Dreamer - Kronus vs. Dick Dudley

ECW TV 47—FBI vs. Balls + Axl Rotten - Bam Bam Bigelow vs. Spike (rematch) - Dudleys vs. New Jack + Kronus - Shane Douglas vs. Phil Lafon - Sandman vs. Sabu (Sabu throws fire into Sandman's eyes and blinds him) - Justin Credible vs. Jerry Lynn - Chris Candido vs. Lance Storm - Rob Van Dam + Fonzie vs. Tommy Dreamer + Beulah - Tommy Dreamer vs. Shane Douglas

ECW 48 Bam Bam Bigelow vs. Shane Douglas (Title Change) - Sabu vs. Mikey Whipwreck - Sasuke vs. Justin Credible - FBI vs. New Jack and Kronus - Balls + Axl Rotten vs. Dudleys - Shane Douglas + Chris Candido vs. Doug Furnas + Phil Lafon - Taz vs. Rob Van Dam - Sabu vs. Shane Douglas vs. Tommy Dreamer (3 way dance) – Justin Credible vs. Chris Chetti – Sabu + Rob Van Dam vs. Taz + Tommy Dreamer (Triple Threat split up)

ECW 49 Axl Rotten vs. D-von Dudley vs. Kronus vs. Tracey Smothers (4 way dance) - Taz vs. Buh Buh Ray Dudley - Sabu vs. Bam Bam Bigelow - Spike vs. Mikey Whipwreck - Rob Van Dam vs. Al Snow - FBI vs. Doug Furnas + Phil Lafon - Justin Credible vs. Mikey Whipwreck - Steve Richards vs. Chris Chetti - Balls + Axl Rotten vs. Chris Candido + Lance Storm vs. Doug Furnas + Phil Lafon (3 way dance)

ECW 50 Sandman vs. Sabu (Tables and ladders match) - Justin Credible vs. Mikey Whipwreck (Justin breaks Mikey's leg) - Al Snow vs. Paul Diamond - FBI vs. Tommy Rogers + Jerry Lynn - Taz vs. Tommy Dreamer - Sabu vs. Sandman (Japan) - New Jack dives - Sabu + Rob Van Dam +Doug Furnas + Phil Lafon vs. Al Snow + Sandman + Taz + Tommy Dreamer

ECW 51 Taz vs. Too Cold Scorpio - Sabu Vs. Sandman - Rob Van Dam vs. Bam Bam Bigelow (Sunny's debut) - Chris Candido vs. Jerry Lynn - Balls + Axl Rotten + Tommy Dreamer vs. FBI - Justin Credible vs. Sasuke - Taz vs. Big Dick Dudley - Taz vs. Shane Douglas - Al Snow vs. Paul Diamond - Shane Douglas + Lance Storm—Chris Candido vs. Taz + Bam Bam Bigelow (Everyone turns on everyone) - Justin Credible vs. Gran Hamada

ECW 52 Sabu + Rob Van Dam vs. Balls + Axl Rotten - Al Snow vs. Doug Furnas - Tommy Dreamer + Sandman vs. Dudleys vs. New Jack + Kronus vs. Sabu + Rob Van Dam (4 way dance) - Balls + Axl Rotten + Tommy Dreamer vs. Brakus + Sabu + Rob Van Dam - Shane Douglas vs. Chris Chetti - Taz vs. Brakus - Chris Candido vs. Lance Storm - Sabu vs. Sandman (dueling canes match) - Rob Van Dam vs. Scorpio

ECW 53 FBI vs. Lance Storm + Chris Candido - Sabu + Rob Van Dam vs. Scorpio + Sandman - FBI vs. Sandman + Scorpio - Tommy Dreamer vs. Justin Credible - Triple Threat vs. Lance Storm + Jerry Lynn + Chris Chetti - Sandman vs. Bam Bam Bigelow - Al Snow vs. Rob Van Dam - Spike vs. Dudley

ECW 54 Justin Credible vs. Mikey Whipwreck - Rob Van Dam vs. Bam Bam Bigelow (match of the year, 5 stars title change) - Dudleys destroy Sandman + Tommy Dreamer - Sabu vs. Fatu - Balls + Axl Rotten vs. Chris Candido + Lance Storm - Chris Candido vs. Lance Storm - Chris Candido vs. Axl Rotten - Sabu vs. Al Snow

ECW 55 PPV Highlights - Sabu vs. Chris Chetti - FBI vs. Nova + Meanie - Bam Bam Bigelow vs. Lance Storm - Rob Van Dam vs. Doug Furnas - Justin Credible vs. Jerry Lynn - Sabu vs. Danny Doring - Chris Candido vs. Jamie Dundee - Rob Van Dam vs. Mikey Whipwreck (everyone comes in - wild brawl) - Justin Credible vs. Jerry Lynn (2 out of 3 falls) - Sabu + Chris Candido vs. Lance Storm + Rob Van Dam (dream team match)

ECW 56 Sandman vs. Buh Buh Dudley (Jack Victory debut) - Jerry Lynn vs. Justin Credible (I quit match) - Tommy Dreamer brawls with the Dudleys - FBI vs. Nova + Meanie - Sabu vs. Ulf Herman - Rob Van Dam vs. Kronus - Candido + Storm vs. Mikey + Chetti - Sandman vs. Buh Buh Dudley (Beulah's brothers get jumped) - Rob Van Dam vs. Lance Storm - Kronus vs. Jamie Dundee - Shane Douglas + Chris Candido vs. Sabu + Rob Van Dam

ECW 57 Balls Mahoney vs. Tanaka - Dudleys vs. Tommy Dreamer + Sandman + Onita from FMW (Wild, bloody brawl as Onita turns on Sandman and Dreamer) - Sabu + Rob Van Dam vs. Candido + Storm (title change) - Taz vs. Lance Storm - Tanaka vs. Mike Awesome - Dudleys vs. New Jack + Kronus (wild brawl) - Tanaka vs. Tracey Smothers - Justin Credible + Jason vs. Jerry Lynn + Pablo - Taz vs. Bam Bam Bigelow - Tommy Dreamer vs. Buh Buh Dudley - Sandman vs. D-von Dudley (canes match) - Spike vs. Big Dick - Sabu + Rob Van Dam vs. Chris Candido + Lance Storm (Lance turns on Candido)

ECW 58 Tons of PPV clips from Heat Wave '98 - Tanaka + Lynn vs. Mike Awesome + Justin Credible - Sabu vs. Taz (Barely Legal) - Sabu vs. Taz (Wrestlepalooza) - Shane Douglas vs. Taz - Sabu + Van Dam vs. Hayabusa + Shinzaki (clips) - Justin vs. Lynn (clips) - Chris Candido vs. Lance Storm - Taz vs. Sabu vs. Bam Bam Bigelow (3 way dance) - Rob Van Dam vs. Jerry Lynn

ECW 59 Chris Candido vs. Lance Storm - Big Sal vs. Spike - Dudleys vs. Sabu + Rob Van Dam (wild brawl) - Jerry Lynn vs. Mikey Whipwreck - Tanaka vs. Bam Bam Bigelow - Lance Storm vs. Chris Candido (Sunny gets involved) - Big Sal vs. Kronus - Spike vs. Big Sal - Tracey Smothers vs. Tommy Rogers - Sandman vs. Justin Credible (Bloody) - Balls vs. Tanaka - Rod Price vs. Sandman - Spike vs. One Man Gang

ECW 60 Dreamer announces Sandman left for WCW - Spike vs. One Man Gang - D-von Dudley vs. Tanaka (Bigelow comes in) - Mike Awesome video - JT Smith returns - Tommy Rogers vs. Tracey Smothers - Justin Credible vs. Tommy Dreamer (everyone comes in and brawls, streetfight, bloody) - Spike vs. 911 - Lance Storm and Tammy Lynn vs. Chris Candido + Sunny (Strip match) - Triple Threat vs. Sabu + Rob Van Dam + Tanaka (major brawl) - Justin Credible vs. Balls - Tanaka + Dudleys (brawl) - Jerry Lynn vs. Chris Candido - Lance Storm vs. Rob Van Dam - Tommy Dreamer vs. Justin Credible (wild, bloody brawl with everyone)

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Francine

"T&A seems to be very important these days. But I feel I have much more to offer than that."

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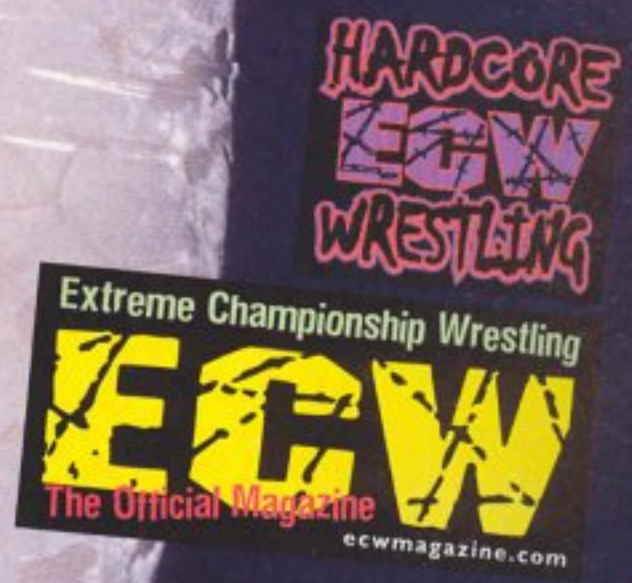
Francine

"As long as ECW is alive ... I'll be here."



Francine

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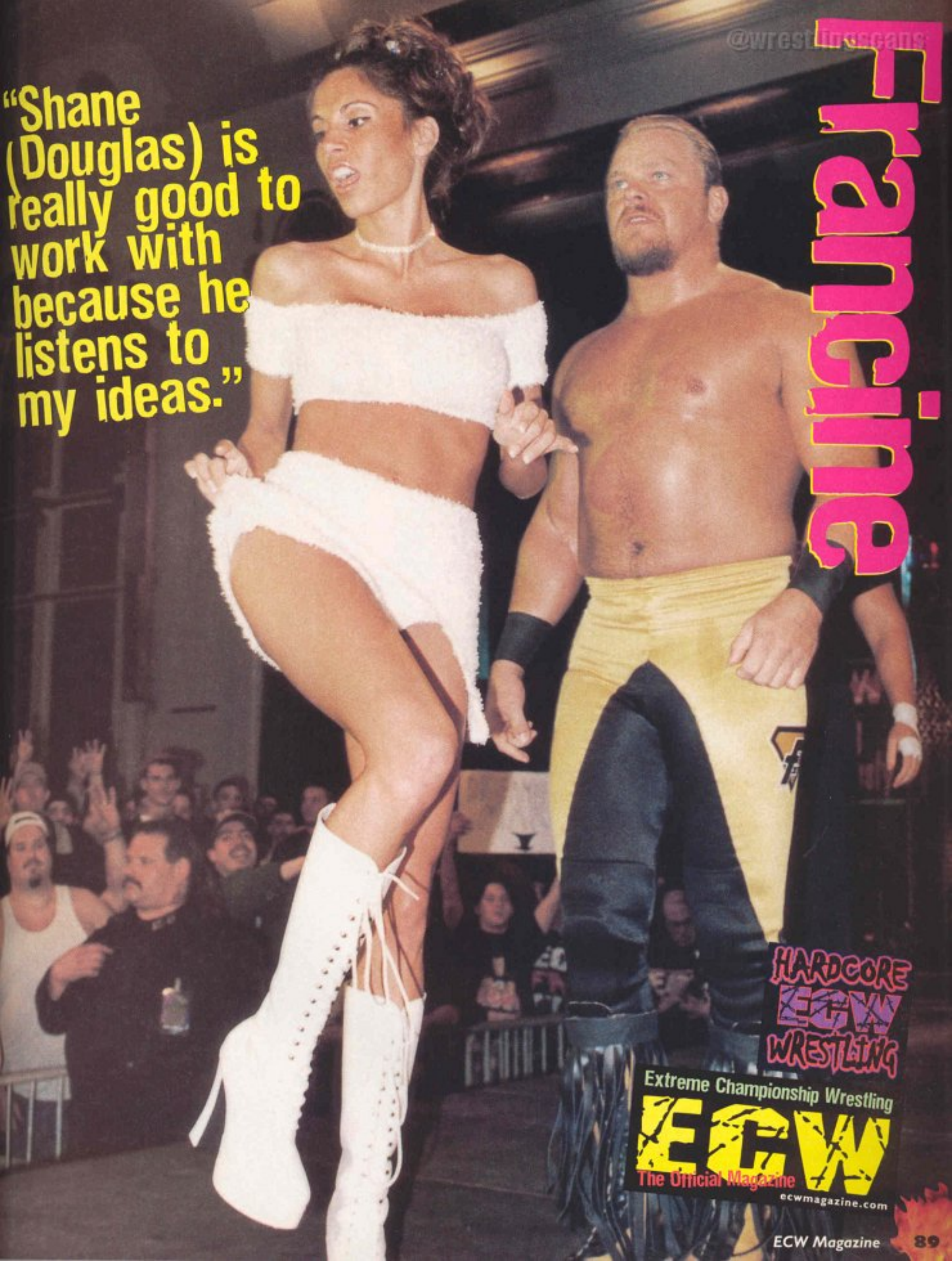
"Taking bumps is what we girls do here in ECW and I'm very proud of that."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"Shane (Douglas) is really good to work with because he listens to my ideas."
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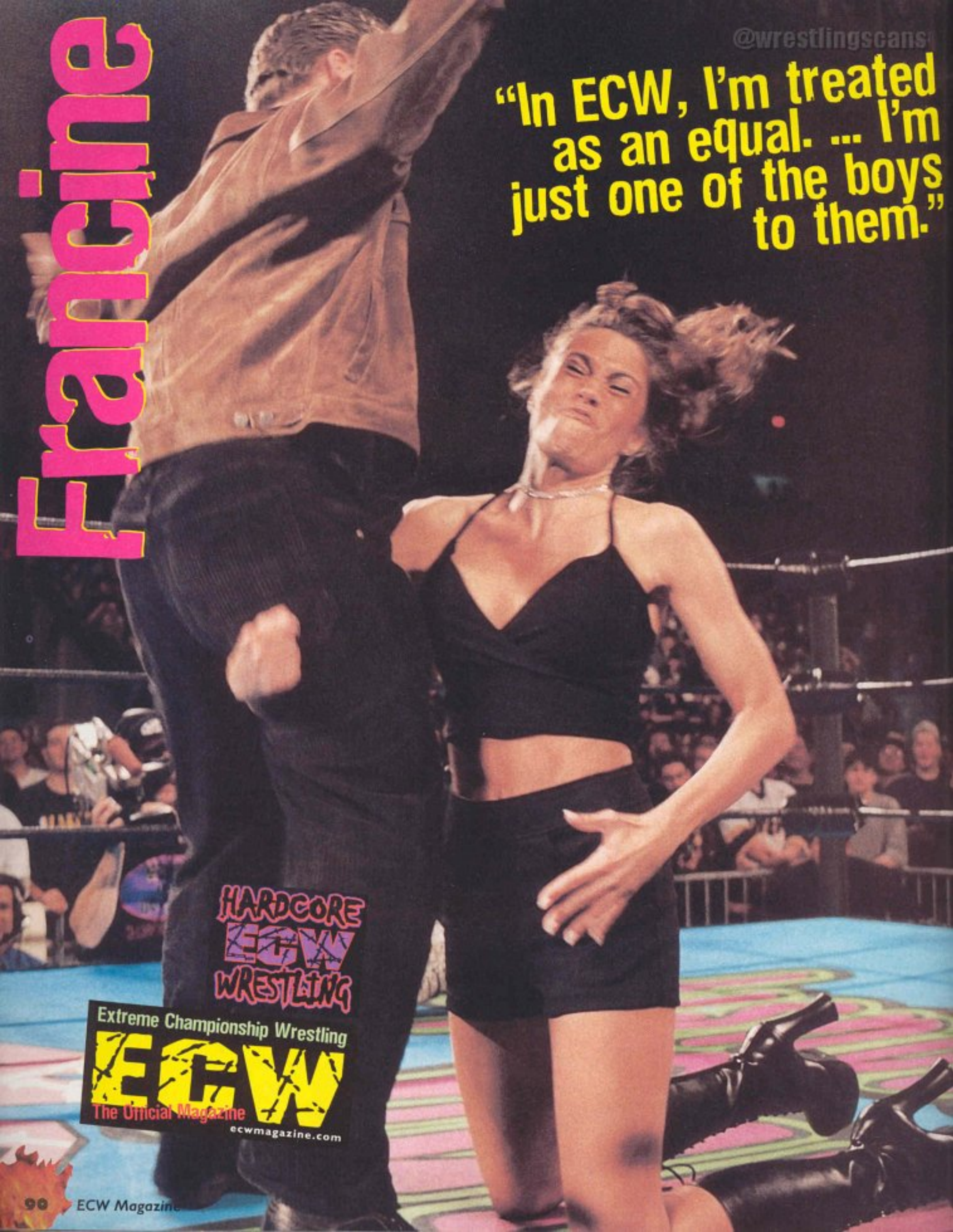

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Francine

"I feel there is room for everyone because every woman has something different to offer."

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Tammy Lynn Bytch

Proud to be a Bytch!

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Tammy Lynn Sytch

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Tammy Lynn Sytch

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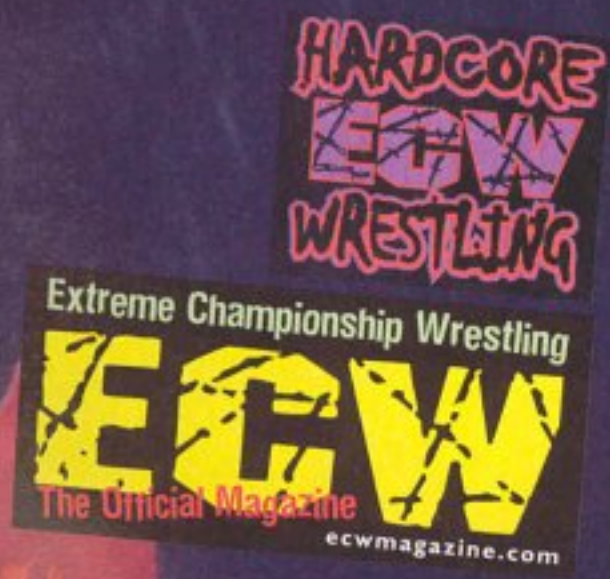

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Justin's "friend"

Who is this woman?

Tammy Lynn Bytch

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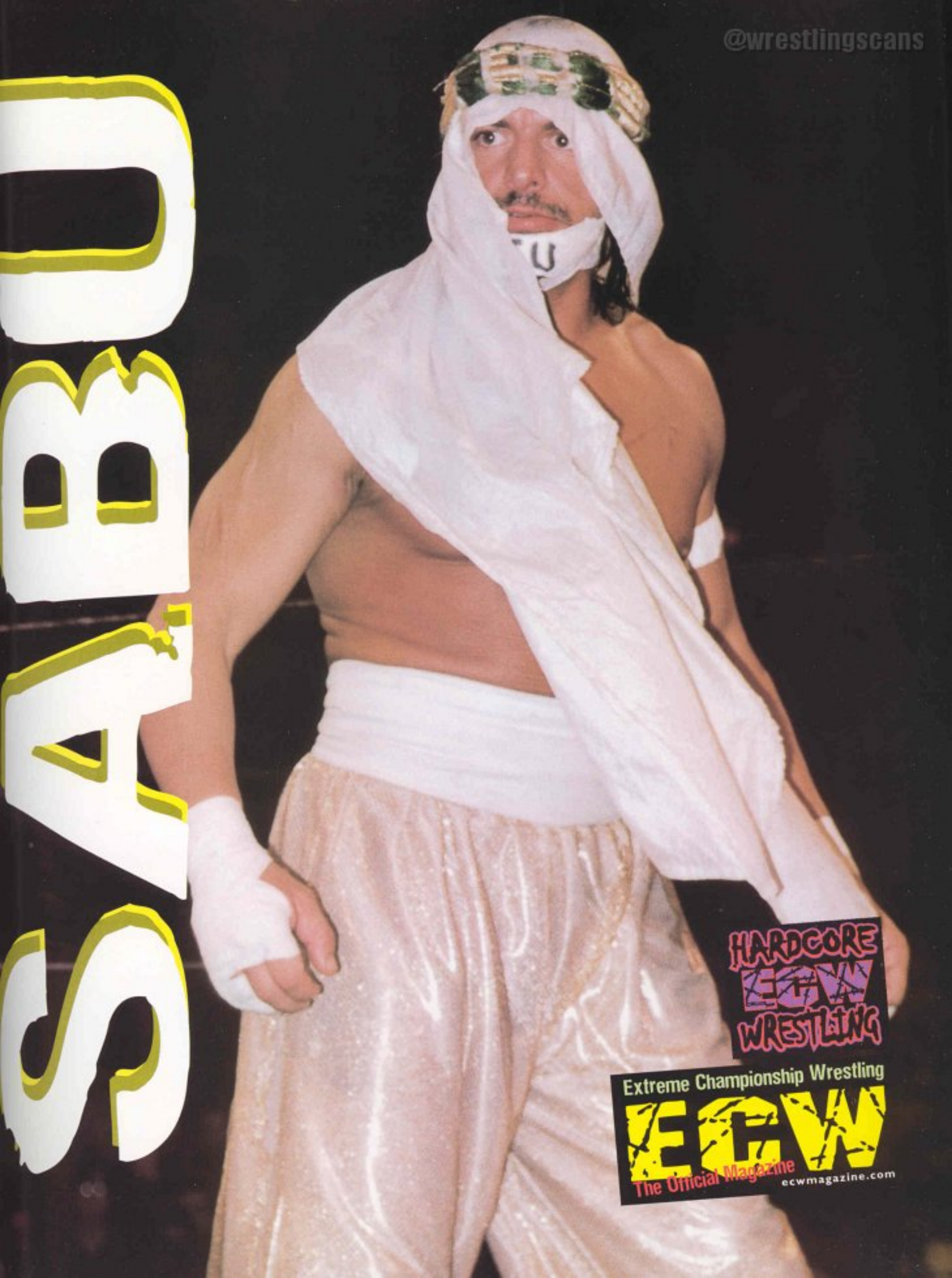
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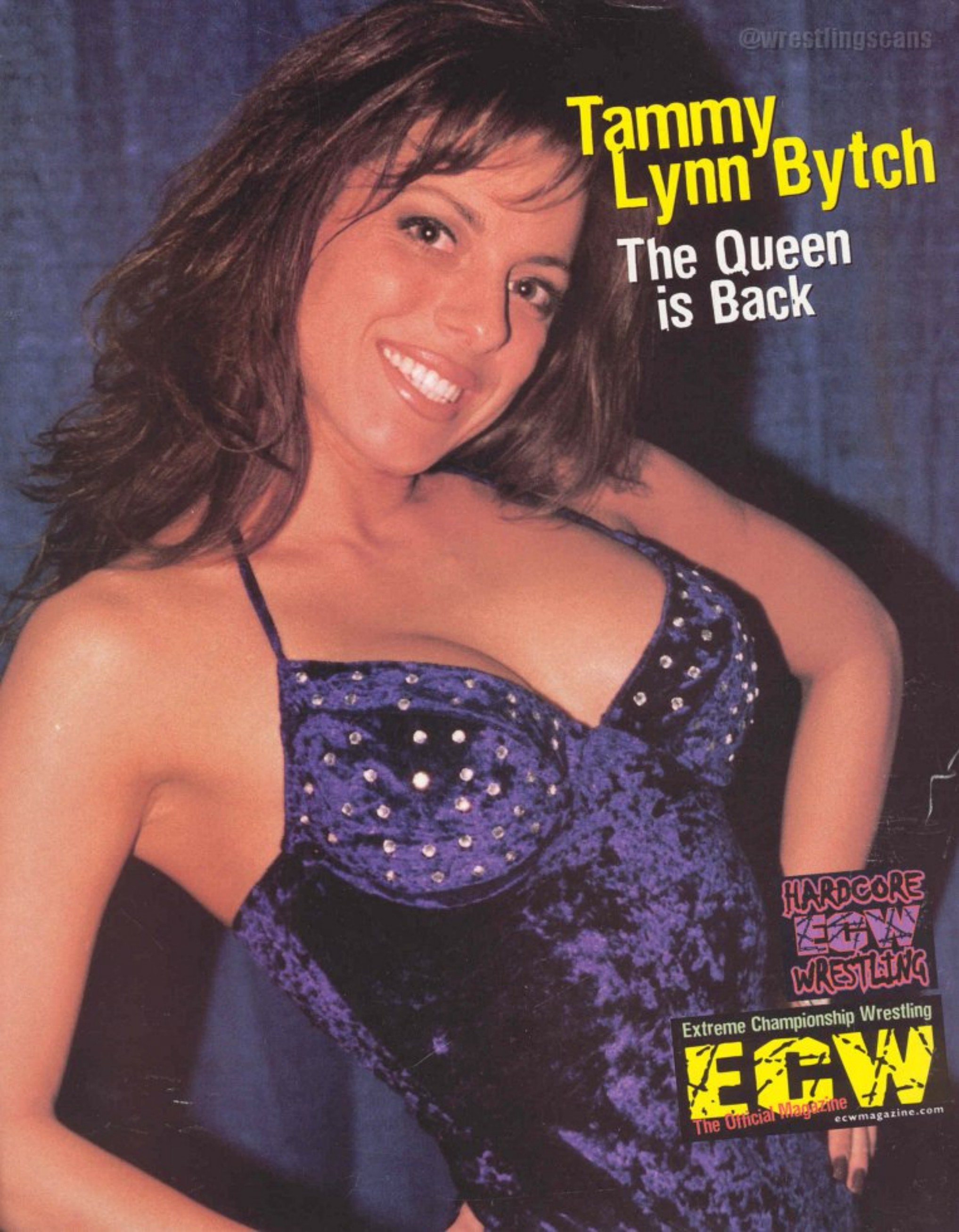
Tammy Lynn Bytch

The Queen is Back



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